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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you intend to watch this year's Liberation Day parade?

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INSIDE

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The Commonwealth Health Center boasts of 27 new hemodialysis chairs. ➤ PAGE 7

NATION

It was a little like the old days without electricity, as the nation's celebrated Independence Day. ➤ PAGE 18

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Scientists at the world's biggest atom smasher hail the discovery of the Higgs boson. ➤ PAGE 22

2 draft bills on transitioning to Social Security. PAGE 3
Fire hits defunct Monte Carlo Club—again. PAGE 6

LEAC rate cut takes effect today

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. approved a 10.81-percent cut in the current levelized energy adjustment clause effective today in the wake of a series of cuts in world fuel prices.

The clause, also called the LEAC, will go down from the current rate of $0.29569 per kilowatt-hour to $0.26373 per kWh effective today, July 6.

LEAC is part of the customer's bill that reflects the cost of fuel. It is supposed to go up or down to reflect the cost of buying fuel to run the power plants. The other element of the bill is the electric base rate.

According to CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren, the new rate's

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Two women drown at hotel pool

» 5th and 6th drowning victims in CNMI this year

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two Korean women drowned in the swimming pool of the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio early yesterday morning.

Police spokesman Jason Tarkong said it is too early to tell if alcohol was a factor in the incident since the investigation is ongoing.

Tarkong confirmed, however, that the pool was already closed when the incident happened.

PIC management has yet to reply to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for comment as of press time yesterday.

Tarkong said that police and medics responded to PIC at 2am after receiving

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Fitial's revised budget doubtful to some

» Finance tells lawmakers: Additional $12M is 'conservative' figure
» House to act on $114.32M budget concurrent resolution today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Some lawmakers, businesses, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) himself have expressed doubts about Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's fiscal year 2013 budget revision from $102 million to $114.32 million on Monday. Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson assured the House Ways and Means Committee yesterday, however, that the additional $12 million is actually a "conservative" figure that still does not include much of the possible impact of the ongoing "aggressive" tax collection efforts.

Sablan said it seems that there is a sudden 12 percent increase in revenue, "dur-

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Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, left, prepares for a closed-door meeting with members of the House Ways and Means Committee chaired by Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), second from left, on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's fiscal year 2013 budget revision from $102 million to $114.32 million, in the speaker's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. Also in the meeting were Legislative Bureau staffers.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

NMI may have dodged a bond rating downgrade

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's B2 bond rating for its Series 2003A General Obligation Bonds may have just dodged a downgrade, as the Fitial administration said it provided the CNMI government's 2010 single audit report, which was the only information that Moody's Investors Service required for submission.

Moody's Investors Service announced on May 4 that it placed the bond rating under review and required the CNMI to provide sufficient current financial and operating information within 60 days. That 60-day period

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Local

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DUE TO LACK OF PHARMACIST

CHC pharmacy closed on weekends

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center's pharmacy, one of the key areas of the public hospital, was ordered closed during weekends due to the lack of staff.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that CHC pharmacy will be closed during Saturdays and Sundays until the organization fills the vacancy for a pharmacist.

The closure of the hospital pharmacy started last week when in-patient pharmacist Anthony Raho went on terminal leave.

Raho, who is also an elected board member of the corporation board, quit his job to join the private sector effective yesterday, July 5.

Babauta said that CHC has only one pharmacist left since Raho's departure. He said the decision to temporarily close the pharmacy is to avoid the lone pharmacist from being burned out. Until a replacement for Raho is found, the weekend closure will stand. Babauta said.

He, however, assured that the pharmacy will be open during weekdays.

According to Babauta, the corporation is now working on the details on how a locum pharmacist can come in quickly. "We're currently working on that now. In fact, we're starting to process one locum pharmacist," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

As a longtime CHC pharmacist, Raho shares that the volume of in-patient clients they accommodate varies each day. "But there's always critical work to be done, complicated drugs that needed to be provided to patients at the hospital."

Raho admitted that with only two staff at the pharmacy, CHC's struggle to satisfy all in-patient services will continue. This will be exacerbated, he said, when only one is left to attend to all these needs.

A hospital pharmacy ideally has three staffers, Raho said.

He said that not having enough pharmacy staff in a hospital is always a concern for Medicare. He said pharmacists are the only specialists allowed to create medications.

Saipan Tribune learned that the supervision of the patient with acute disorders and the dispensing of specific drugs are the core principles implied in most in-patient pharmacist jobs. They deal daily with dietitians and members of the medical staff and helps them to devise and implement suitable nutrition plans and drug therapy treatments and procedures.

Since last week, some medical providers temporarily stopped accommodating patients who are using Medicaid as their insurance due to the non-payment of reimbursements from the Medicaid program.

When asked if the CHC Pharmacy is ready to accommodate the influx of Medicaid patients, Raho immediately said no.

"I can say, 100 percent not ready. It can't handle Medicaid at all. We have only one pharmacist left and even when it has two staff, it is still a struggle just to provide the services to the in-patient population and a lot of Division of Public Health programs," he said.

WPS principal remanded to jail

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has found Whispering Palms School principal Thomas Weindl not eligible for court-appointed counsel.

"I'm sorry Mr. Weindl, based on your financial information, you do not qualify for court-appointed counsel," Manglona told the principal during a detention hearing yesterday.

» **Weindl not eligible for court-appointed counsel**

Weindl is facing charges for using a netbook to review several child pornographic materials, mostly of 11-year-old girls.

The judge informed the 57-year-old Weindl that he is facing serious charges and that he should hire a private counsel.

Attorney David Banes appeared as counsel for the defendant. Banes, however, told the court he is withdrawing as counsel.

Weindl asked the court how he could take care of financial matters such as signing or writing checks if he is detained. "I just don't understand how it works," he added.

Manglona suggested he could talk to his wife and his lawyer for such arrangements.

Manglona also ordered Weindl's continued detention and remanded him to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Preliminary hearing will be on July 13.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested Weindl last week on charges of receipt of child pornography and accessing child pornography with intent to view.

According to the complaint, the Public School System-issued netbook was issued to the son of an FBI special agent. The special agent and his family are transferring to the U.S. mainland so the agent recently gave back the netbook to Weindl.

The special agent, however, had installed in 2011 an "e-blaster" on the netbook in an effort to monitor his son's Internet use. E-blaster is a computer and Internet monitoring software program.

After the agent surrendered the netbook recently to the principal, he was surprised to begin receiving "e-blaster" reports indicating that the netbook was accessing the Internet showing child pornographic materials. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Admin drafts two bills on transitioning to US Social Security

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Members of the House leadership are now reviewing two of the Fitial administration's draft bills related to the government's plan to transition all active government employees into the U.S. Social Security retirement program.

The House leadership is so far agreeable to what they have read in the draft bills but House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said they are waiting for the final version of the bill.

One of the bills, referred as the "CNMI Pension Recovery and Survival Act of 2012," amends the Commonwealth Code pertaining to the defined contribution and defined benefit plans of the CNMI's retirement system to allow for the transition to participation in the federal Social Security system.

In its findings, the draft bill says the CNMI government faces an enormous unfunded governmental obligation to participants in the retirement system.

Moreover, for several years now, the government has been unable to follow a fiscally sound deficit reduction program, the draft bill says.

"The Legislature recognizes that the Commonwealth lacks the financial resources to pay off the present unfunded government liability, and that a rescue and reform plan is necessary to restore the system to a more sound financial footing," it adds.

The government owes the Retirement Fund over $320 million in unpaid employer contribution plus interests.

The second draft bill "expresses the desire" of the CNMI to have the insurance system commonly known as "Social Security" extended to the officers and employees of the CNMI government and its political subdivisions and instrumentalities.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in an interview on Wednesday, said the administration has "already pretty much got the Social Security Administration to accept the transfer of all the active government employees."

Fitial said SSA needs legislation from the CNMI authorizing such transfer.

He said a five-year buyback is pretty much accepted.

"If [Delegate Gregorio Sablan] Kilili wants to have a 10-year buyout, then we need legislation, but the five-year minimum buyout does not need [U.S. legislation]," Fitial told reporters at the Fourth of July festivities.

Fitial placed the Fund under a state of emergency after a federal judge dismissed the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition. The administration wants the Fund to be placed under the Department of Finance mostly to disburse retirees' pension, while active members are transitioned to the U.S. Social Security retirement system.

A Senate joint resolution that the Senate adopted last week seeks to block the governor from abolishing altogether the Retirement Fund board of trustees, among other things.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that the House leadership's priority in today's session is to act on the fiscal year 2013 budget concurrent resolution.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said there was not even a mention whether the House would entertain today the Senate joint resolution amending the governor's executive order placing the Fund under a state of emergency.

Cashiers tag Mirano in stale check cashing scam

Cashiers yesterday testified Earl Eric Mirano as the one who purchased some items at their stores using CNMI tax refund checks that turned out to be stale and forged.

A cashier at Hannam Market said that Mirano, a regular customer, bought some grocery items worth $56.52 using a tax refund check in the amount of $189.83.

"I thought it's a legitimate check," said the cashier during the ongoing federal jury trial of Mirano and his co-defendant, Mohammad Jahangir Miah.

The cashier testified that when she asked for an identification card, Mirano handed her his passport.

Miah and Mirano are facing charges over a scheme of cashing stale CNMI tax refund checks in grocery stores. They are charged with conspiracy to commit bank fraud and bank fraud. The trial began on Monday.

A cashier at LJ Store also testified yesterday that he recognized Mirano as the person who purchased some items at the store using a tax refund check on Jan. 24, 2012.

The cashier said he looked at the photograph on a driver's license that Mirano handed him. The cashier, however, admitted that he did not see Mirano sign the check.

A manager at Green Consume Market also testified, followed by Bank of Guam vice president for Saipan regional manager Marcie Tomokane. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Bill cuts, removes certain Fund benefits

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) will formally introduce today a bill that would eliminate the cash-strapped NMI Retirement Fund's enhanced benefit accrual formula and special cost of living allowance for judges and elected officials, limit surviving spouses' benefits, and eliminate benefits for all other dependents.

Palacios said he hopes his colleagues would see the merit of his bill to help prolong the Fund's lifespan.

"Since it appears unlikely that the Commonwealth government will make its full required contribution, it is necessary to reduce the Retirement Fund benefits, particularly those benefits which are not consistent with traditional retirement plans," House Bill 17-310 says.

Among the specific provisions is removing the surviving spouse's eligibility for the cost of living increase of 2 percent per annum upon reaching 62, commencing on the anniversary of the spouse's annuity date, calculated using simple interest.

For survivors of Class I and II members, the minimum spouse annuity will continue to be $6,000 per year, but the maximum spouse annuity will be capped at $25,000, the bill proposes. Surviving children's benefits would either be reduced or removed.

Palacios earlier said in these times when the Fund is in dire strait, the CNMI cannot afford to continue to pay $80,000 a year to a surviving spouse of a former official. That former official was receiving $160,000 in annual salary. He said this is unfair to most retirees receiving less than $25,000 in pension annually.

Malware may knock thousands off Internet on Monday

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The warnings about the Internet problem have been splashed across Facebook and Google. Internet service providers have sent notices, and the FBI set up a special website.

But tens of thousands of Americans may still lose their Internet service Monday unless they do a quick check of their computers for malware that could have taken over their machines more than a year ago.

Despite repeated alerts, the number of computers that probably are infected is more than 277,000 worldwide, down from about 360,000 in April. Of those still infected, the FBI believes that about 64,000 are in the United States.

Users whose computers are still infected Monday will lose their ability to go online, and they will have to call their service providers for help deleting the malware and reconnecting to the Internet.

The problem began when international hackers ran an online advertising scam to take control of more than 570,000 infected computers around the world. When the FBI went in to take down the hackers late last year, agents realized that if they turned off the malicious servers being used to control the computers, all the victims would lose their Internet service.

In a highly unusual move, the FBI set up a safety net. They brought in a private company to install two clean Internet servers to take over for the malicious servers so that people would not suddenly lose their Internet.

But that temporary system will be shut down at 12:01 a.m. EDT Monday, July 9.

Most victims don't even know their computers have been infected, although the malicious software probably has slowed their Web surfing and disabled their antivirus software, making their machines more vulnerable to other problems.

But popular social networking sites and Internet providers have gotten more involved, reaching out to computer users to warn of the problem.

According to Tom Grasso, an FBI supervisory special agent, many Internet providers are ready for the problem and have plans to try to help their customers. Some, such as Comcast, already have reached out.

The company sent out notices and posted information on its website. Because the company can tell whether there is a problem with a customer's Internet server, Comcast sent an email, letter or Internet notice to customers whose computers appeared to be affected.

Grasso said other Internet providers may come up with technical solutions that they will put in place Monday that will either correct the problem or provide information to customers when they call to say their Internet isn't working.

BUDGET

From Page 1

ing election year," even as businesses that pay the taxes are not seeing such an increase.

"That doesn't add up," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*. "I have been having conversations with businesses still concerned about their declining revenues and reduced work hours but apparently the government is the only one seeing a 12-percent increase. That's a huge bump in the budget."

Sablan said he supports the restoration of 80 work hours biweekly, but "how long is it going to last?" He hopes there is no "over-projection" in revenue.

Lawmakers themselves have reservations about the budget. Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) said people should approach the revised budget submission with "cautious optimism."

He said the government still has lots of unpaid obligations, including over $320 million to the NMI Retirement Fund and millions to private clinics serving Medicaid patients.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) said it was only after the Finance secretary met with the Ways and Means Committee that he considered the revised budget a realistic one.

"I am more comfortable now in supporting the concurrent resolution that the House may act on [today]. The Finance secretary said $12 million is a conservative figure," Villagomez said after the Ways and Means Committee held a closed-door meeting with Larson in the speaker's conference room.

Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) prefiled yesterday a House concurrent resolution capping the fiscal year 2013 budget at $114.32 million, based on the governor's revised budget.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), also a member of the panel, said that Finance did not want to be "liberal" about the figures thus only the $12 million additional projected resources.

Just like Villagomez, Camacho said for the most part, the additional $12 million is expected from business gross revenue tax gains.

Camacho and Villagomez said aggressive enforcement of tax laws and rules and ongoing tax debt settlement negotiations are expected to add more to the projected revenue in 2013.

They cited as an example Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino's settlement of its over $30 million back taxes, by agreeing to pay $6.1 million. But the lawmakers said the discussions on tax collections were brief and general to avoid disclosing identities of specific taxpayers.

The governor said the revised budget also incorporates transitioning all active employees into the U.S. Social Security retirement program. If effectuated, this change reduces the employer contribution for all active defined benefit members from 37.39 percent to 6.20 percent and an increase for the defined contribution members from 4 percent to 6.20 percent.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday the $12-million increase seems believable because the administration would always give the low figure rather than the high figure.

"The Senate will work on the number that the House will give us. I urge the House to pass the concurrent resolution so that we know the level of resources we're working on and to give the Senate ample time to do its review of the concurrent resolution," Manglona said.

He said the government "needs to do more than that," referring to Fitial's plan of giving $11 million to the Fund, up $1 million from his original submission of $10 million. He said the same goes with the medical referral program and Medicaid, among other things.

The government's 2012 budget is $102 million. The governor submitted on March 30 a $102-million budget for 2013. He revised it on Monday, to increase it to $114.32 million.

DROWN

From Page 1

a call about the drowning incident.

Tarkong said a security guard discovered one victim floating motionless facedown on the pool surface, while the other was found motionless at the bottom of the pool.

The victims, ages 26 and 27, were rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center where a doctor pronounced one dead at 2:43am and the other at 3:18am.

Tarkong said the security guard reported the incident to the security office and jumped into the pool in an attempt to rescue the victims. Other hotel employees responded and helped recover the motionless victims from the pool.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation was applied on the victims before they were taken to CHC.

"The release of the names of drowning victims is withheld pending notification of next of kin. This case is under investigation and is classified as a drowning incident," Tarkong said.

It is the second drowning incident at PIC pools since April. The two women are also the fifth and sixth drowning victims in the CNMI this year. All incidents happened on Saipan.

On May 21, a search and rescue team recovered the body of a U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer who was reported missing the night before after spear fishing with two friends at Obyan Beach. Rescuers spotted the victim's body floating approximately 200 yards outside the reef of Coral Ocean Point.

On April 23, a 4-year-old girl passed away at CHC's Intensive Care Unit where she was admitted after a near-drowning at PIC's pool two days before.

On April 16, a Chinese female tourist drowned at Managaha Island as she and her companions were exiting the water to head back to shore.

On March 6, a 76-year-old Japanese male tourist drowned while swimming with three friends at a beach near Hyatt Regency Saipan and Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. A strong current reportedly pulled the victim away from the sandbar located in front of Hyatt.

DOWNGRADE

From Page 1

lapsed this week.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said Wednesday that if there was a downgrade he would know about it, but deferred questions about the bond rating review to Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that there has not been any advisory that a downgrade occurred or that it was averted.

He said the single audit report was issued right around the same time that the Moody's announcement came out.

"Hence, the release of the single audit would provide the information that was considered lacking," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

That audit report, conducted by Deloitte under contract with the Office of the Public Auditor, said the CNMI government's unreserved fund deficit ballooned by $36.1 million or 12 percent in a 12-month period, bringing the total to $336.9 million by the end of fiscal year 2010 compared to $300.8 million in fiscal year 2009.

The unreserved fund deficit of $336.9 million in fiscal year 2010 is much more than the government's fiscal year 2012 budget of $102 million.

Moody's said on May 4 that the placement of the rating on review "is prompted by the lack of sufficient current financial and operating information."

"If the information is not obtained within the next 60 days, we will take appropriate rating action, which could include the withdrawal or lowering of the rating," Moody's said.

Inos said at the time that the administration has done "corrective actions" to avoid a downgrade.

A downgrade of the CNMI's bond rating would mean that the Commonwealth would find it more difficult to issue bonds, such as a pension obligation bond that the Fitial administration and some lawmakers have been advocating to help pay for the government's outstanding employer contributions to the NMI Retirement Fund, now at over $320 million.

Demapan said the CNMI, by way of its voters, may approve a pension obligation initiative.

"However, the initiative would only pave the way for the government to pursue a bond; it does not guarantee that such a bond would be approved. That would be something that would be determined when we get to that point," he added.

Oscar Camacho, loan manager at the Commonwealth Development Authority, said yesterday he believes that the bond rating that Moody's has reviewed may have been the CNMI's $40 million bond in 2003 for land compensation claims and was refunded in 2007.

"Any downgrade would be hurtful. So we really need to be forthcoming in our reporting requirements," he said.

Inos had said the issue of bond rating review is more about turning the economy around.

Demapan also said the review of the CNMI's B2 bond rating was something expected given the recent publicity brought about by the Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition filed by the Fund.

The Fund was the first public pension agency on American soil to seek bankruptcy protection, but a federal judge later said he will dismiss it.

LEAC

From Page 1

impact on average residential customers using up to 500 kWh monthly is a savings of $11.95 on their monthly bill.

The new rate will bring savings to rate payers amounting to more than half-a-million dollars each month, Warren said.

"The new fuel charges will save CUC's rate payers over $500,000 a month, and we're pleased that the current LEAC tariff allows CUC to make this savings immediately available to our customers," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

CUC last reduced its LEAC rate on June 5.

The continuing decline of fuel prices in the world market has also prompted oil companies in the CNMI to cut their pump prices.

The new LEAC rate is composed of the following elements: LEAC fuel and lube oil element ($0.24923); volatility element ($0.01122); regulatory and technical support element ($0.00123); reconciliation element ($0.00807); allowance for doubtful accounts ($0.01012).

Because electricity is also being used to pump water and wastewater systems, Warren hinted that water electric charge and wastewater electric charge to customers will also be reduced. However, the numbers are still being crunched as of press time.

"We anticipate a reduction in the WEC and WWEC, but will not know for sure until the calculations are complete," Warren said.

Even without the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC can adjust its rates because the last time the commission met in January 2012, it allowed the automatic adjustment of the LEAC rate so long as it will not exceed 4.5 percent of the current LEAC rate. Once the commission reconvenes, the new rates will be up for review.

17 take oath as new US citizens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

For Dalia Raqueno Agulto, acquiring her U.S. citizenship after being on Saipan for 32 years means no more hassles during off-island travels.

Agulto, 53, is a native of Cavite, the Philippines. She was married in 1981 to District Court security officer Ramon Agulto. They have three children.

"I'm happy. I'm very proud to be a U.S. citizen," Mrs. Agulto told *Saipan Tribune* shortly after she and 16 others took their oath to become U.S. citizens during yesterday's naturalization ceremony.

Mrs. Agulto first came to Saipan on May 3, 1980, working as a housemaid.

She recalled that when they traveled before, her family would patiently wait for her at the airport because of all the questions and processing.

"Now my travel is easy and fast," said the beaming Mrs. Agulto.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona administered the oath to Mrs. Agulto and 16 other petitioners.

The 16 other newest citizens are Yuk Tak Wong, Hermogenes Yumol Camiguing, Dalisay Bederio Cepeda, Ethel Liza Medina Daproza, Eduardo Miranda Guinto Jr., Lizabeth Bocatot Hofschneider, Mary Jane Atchico Maratita, Anna Lee Sanchez Mendiola, Wilma Manalastas Miller, Leonardo Dollente Pascua, Teresita Supnet Pascua, Remedios Generalao Ritumalta, Lualhati Moreno Sanchez, Sol Consuelo Cabrera San Nicolas, MD Momen Sarker, and Mary Ann Salvoro Tenorio.

Four other successful petitioners—Mikie Mihara Chong, Angelina Lumabas Pacala, Roberto Panotes Pacala, and Loreto Millano Presto—failed to attend the ceremony.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officer Diane Zedde presented the names of the 17 petitioners, all of whom were Filipinos except for one from Hong Kong and one from Bangladesh.

For 60-year-old Wong, getting U.S. citizenship provides stability in his stay on Saipan and the U.S. mainland.

"I want to enjoy my retirement benefits," said Wong, who along with wife, Carol, own Canton Restaurant. The couple has two children.

Wong and his wife came to Saipan in 1983 to open the restaurant.

U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, who served as the guest speaker at the ceremony, said he is very honored as the first person to call the petitioners "my fellow Americans."

"Just like you, America is my adopted country…My fellow Americans, congratulations," said Sablan, drawing applause from family members and relatives of the newest U.S. citizens.

The 17 newest U.S. citizens pose with U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Ramona V. Manglona, Delgate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officer Diane Zedde during yesterday's naturalization ceremony in federal court.
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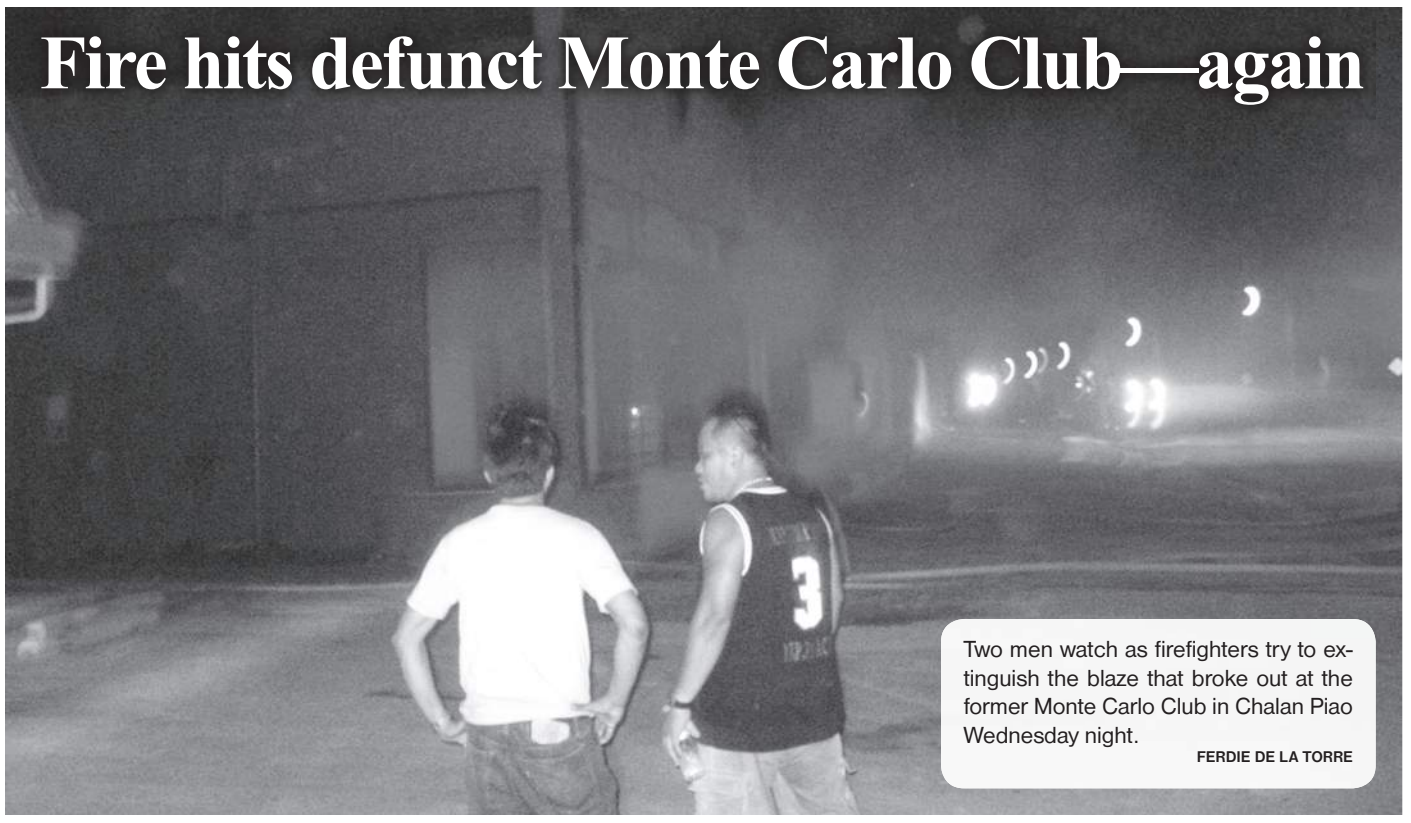
Fire hits defunct Monte Carlo Club—again



Two men watch as firefighters try to extinguish the blaze that broke out at the former Monte Carlo Club in Chalan Piao Wednesday night.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A fire of unknown cause broke out Wednesday night at the defunct Monte Carlo Club in front of Hopwood Junior High School in Chalan Piao.

The Department of Public Safety has yet to release information about the fire but some residents in the area suspect it was deliberately started—like last January's blaze that also partially affected Monte Carlo.

Witnesses told *Saipan Tribune* that the fire started around 8:45pm. As of 9:50pm, thick smoke had already engulfed the one-story concrete building. At the time, residents observed that firefighters had yet to spray water into the building.

A witness said firefighters extinguished the blaze shortly before 12am Thursday.

A check by *Saipan Tribune* at the scene yesterday afternoon showed that only the interior of the former Monte Carlo Club was burned.

Employees and family members of Bammyss Bar and Grill, which is located in the same building, were seen cleaning the restaurant, which only sustained smoke damage.

Firefighters prevented the blaze from spreading to Bammyss, which recently opened. Due to lack of power supply because of the fire, Bammyss was closed yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the fire started in the stage of the former Monte Carlo Club. The establishment was closed in January after a fire that broke out at the back of the building damaged a portion of the club.

Primo Ferrera, 47, a construction worker, said he was helping his wife, an employee of Bammyss, inside the restaurant when a customer came and told them that there was fire at the former Monte Carlo.

Ferrera said he immediately ran to their house located at the back of the building and took their seven children to safety.

Ferrera wasn't able to salvage any other item but the blaze fortunately did not spread to their house.

"I saw a big fire in the stage area of Monte Carlo. It's like the fire was caused by gas," he said in Tagalog.

Last Jan. 12, a fire broke out at 11pm at the former barracks of Mary's Bakery located behind Connie's Diner (now Bammyss). The blaze razed the one-story abandoned barracks, which were made of light materials.

The fire immediately spread and burned the sports bar section of Monte Carlo Club. Firefighters prevented the blaze from transferring to other parts of the club and to Connie's Diner.

Witnesses said that prior to the fire, an unidentified man entered Monte Carlo but did not order anything. After a few minutes he left and then returned some five to 10 minutes later and went to the restroom. After about two minutes, employees of the club learned that there was a big fire at the former Mary's Bakery barracks located behind the club.

The unidentified man was seen throwing rocks at the barracks as it was engulfed in flames.

Two hours before that fire, another blaze razed an abandoned building of the former MGM Factory, only a few blocks away from Monte Carlo.

On Nov. 17, 2011 three fires broke out close to each other in San Antonio, Chalan Piao, and Chalan Kanoa.

Investigators suspected that two of those fires were intentionally set of.

Last March, fire investigators confirmed that 11 fires that occurred from November 2011 to February of this year in the southern part of Saipan were all arson-related incidents.

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Corporation buys 27 new chairs for dialysis patients

»New center can now operate at full capacity

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MONETH DEPOSA
Hospital administrator Karen Buettner assists Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta try out the new chairs at the dialysis unit yesterday.

The Commonwealth Health Center yesterday took delivery of 27 brand new chairs for hemodialysis patients that will finally allow the new hemodialysis center to become fully operational.

Corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta and board member Roy Rios led hospital officials in receiving the shipment of the new equipment that were procured using hospital revenues amounting to $75,112.

The especially designed chairs are equipped with trendelenberg with side table, push bar, locking caster, BMI calculator, and stretcher lift among other features.

The trendelenberg function allows a patient's body to lay flat on the back (supine position) with the feet higher than the head.

Renal services director Dr. Sherleen Osman said the new chairs will finally replace the 19 old ones and will bring comfort to patients while receiving long hours of treatment in the center.

Osman said all 27 units will be ready starting today and can be seen in each unit of the center. She revealed that the new equipment have more features and details that are more comfortable than the old ones.

Among the functions of the new chair, she added, is they can place the patient either from back or front of the chair, which is not possible in the old chair.

"Since this unit opened in September last year, we never able to run in full capacity because we only have 19 chairs and the unit has 27 stations. Now, we can run it in full capacity," she told *Saipan Tribune* in a visit at the center.

According to Babauta, the then-Department of Public Health, under the direction of former secretary Kevin Villagomez, ordered the new chairs for hemodialysis patients in August 2011. Because it was ordered without the available funds during the time, shipment was delayed until the corporation recently made the payment to vendor JC Marketing Inc.

Babauta said the corporation, over the course of four to five months, was able to set aside $75,112 to pay for the new chairs. He said the corporation has been putting aside some amounts each month until it was able to put together the full payment.

The CEO said old chairs will be placed on the hospital warehouse and see if they can be fixed.

"This is just something that we have to do to accommodate the needs of our patients. As you know we have a growing number of hemodialysis patients and the number is alarming. We want to make sure that while they're receiving treatment they are comfortable so it will eliminate some of their burdens," said the CEO.

Babauta, along with health officials, inspected yesterday the newly arrived chairs and chat with some patients who will directly benefit from it. With Babauta were hospital administrator Karen Buettner, Bureau of Environmental Health director John Tagabuel, and emergency preparedness director Warren Villagomez.

Last month, the corporation also replaced the hospital's dilapidated boiler using grant from the Office of Insular Affairs.

Stanley to seek re-election

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), one of the longest serving lawmakers in the CNMI, will seek re-election in the Nov. 6 midterm elections.

"I am seeking re-election as an independent. I will run to continue to protect the interest of the people and not of any party," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*. He first served in the 7th Legislature.

While Torres has been running as an independent, he has been aligned with the governor's political party. He said it is not a coincidence that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's former Covenant Party and now Republican Party always has at least one vacant slot for Precinct 3 where he is from.

Fitial's Republican Party has so far only three of six Precinct 3 slots filled, and they include those for incumbent House vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro, Roy Rios, and Joe Saures. The GOP said three more will be named at a later time.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos' Covenant Party also currently has only two slots filled for Precinct 3: incumbent Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), and Bryan S. Torres, the Public School System's mathematics program coordinator.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory

MIGUEL SABLAN DEMAPAN

was born on July 16, 1952 and called to his eternal rest on June 30, 2012.

Survived by:

Wife: Frances Tenorio Demapan

Children: Michael Louis T. & Nina Demapan and Bella
Patrick James T. Demapan
Frances Morella T. Demapan
Soleana T. Demapan
Micaela T. Demapan

Brothers, Sisters & In Laws:

Juan S. & Rita B. Demapan & Family
Antonio S. & Ignacia T. Demapan & Family
Ana D. & Jesus M. Castro & Family
Jose S. & Susana B. Demapan & Family
Roman S. & Rosita R. Demapan & Family
David S. & Jovita C. Demapan & Family
Maryann D. & Carlos A. Calvo & Family
Thomas S. Demapan
Bryan / Darren / Kelly T. Demapan

Jesus R. & Annie T. Sablan & Family
Clarence T. Tenorio & Family
Norman T. & Keli A. Tenorio & Family
Roman S. & Patricia T. Palacios & Family
Joseph R. Guzman & Priscilla T. Tenorio & Family

Stepmother: Maura T. Demapan

Predeceased by:

Father: Gregorio Deleon Guerrero Demapan
Mother: Micaela Sablan Demapan
Father In-Law: Jose C. Tenorio
Mother In-Law: Soledad T. Tenorio
Brothers: Isais S. Demapan & Ramon S. Demapan

Rosary is being said nightly at 8:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. On Monday, July 9, 2012, his body will leave the Commonwealth Health Center at 6:30 a.m. and escorted to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral for responso, rosary, viewing and last respects. The mass of Christian burial will be offered at 11:00 a.m. followed by interment and burial at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery.

Dankolo na Si Yu'os Ma'ase, Olomwai and Thank you
Frances T. Demapan, Children and Family

JKPL extends registration for 'Project CLAP'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Joeten Kiyu Public Library executive director John O. Gonzales announced yesterday that registration for their "Project CLAP" has been extended for another week, or until July 13, to get more participants in the program.

A pilot cultural and health literacy outreach program, Project CLAP is a collaboration between JKPL and the Chamolinian Cultural Village, Inc. and is funded by the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant under Project Brabu of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. The project includes various cultural and sports classes and programs that are open to both youth and adults.

Gonzales

Gonzales yesterday encouraged community members, especially parents and guardians, to register themselves along with their children so they could avail of free program offerings.

The executive director earlier announced that registration was extended to encourage more participants while classes are not yet open.

He said cultural programs are offered during Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8am to 12pm. Cultural lessons include weaving, beads making, mwar making, and traditional music.

For sports programs, the schedules are Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 8am to 12 noon and it includes T-ball for children age 8 and under; baseball for 9 and over and adults; and basketball for 9 years old and over and adults.

Programs already began last July 2 and will end Sept. 29, from 8am to noon. Registration for all programs is free and ongoing at the library and selected schools-Tanapag, Kagman, Koblerville, Gregorio T. Camacho, and San Antonio elementary schools, and at Chacha Oceanview Jr. High School.

The programs, Gonzales said, will be held at "remote satellite communities" at GTC and Tanapag elementary schools in the north, San Antonio and Koblerville elementary schools and the Koblerville Youth Center in the south; and the Kagman Elementary School, Kagman Community Center, Kagman 2 open sports field, and the Chacha Oceanview Jr. High School in the east.

He explained that the target sites were selected to offer convenience and ease of access. For more information, call JKPL at 235-READ (7323) or 7315.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Amot yan Kutturan Chamorro, Chamorro Dictionary Project on *Marianas Agupa*

Tomorrow, July 7, *Marianas Agupa* will feature Manuel Borja from Amot yan Kutturan Chamorro Project to talk about ANA grant project status on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Also there will be a discussion on the status of the Chamorro language revision project which is partly funded by the National Science Foundation.

The show starts at 9am and finishes at 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Listeners on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and those listening via streaming are encouraged to call in and ask questions during the show. Direct to studio at 234-5929 or use the *Marianas Agupa* Facebook account via instant messaging.

The Chamorro Radio Talk Show Program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Featured reports are as follows: World report and program review by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, a report from Rota with correspondent and commentator Thomas D. Mendiola, a special segment called *Hafa Mohon* with Juanita Mendiola, and a report from Tinian by correspondent and radio commentator with former senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous internet via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***

Free Army Reserve Enrichment Camp

The Army Reserve's Child, Youth and School Services will host a free Youth Enrichment Camp on July 23-27 2012 at Marianas Trekking for children ages 4-12. For more information contact Travis Mckinney 808.438.1600 Ext. 3374 or email travis.mckinney@us.army.mil, or Chris Nelson at 323-8735. ***(PR)***

Green Meadow enrollment ongoing

Enrolment for school year 2012-2013 is ongoing at Green Meadow School for pre-school, kindergarten and elementary (1st - 6th grade). New students accepted. Three convenient locations: Main campus - Chalan Kiya; CM6 Joeten Housing, Dandan; and Middle Road (next to PMC), Gualo Rai.

Green Meadow School (GMS, 2012 Academic Bee Challenge champions) is a Christian educational and child-care institution using ABEKA curriculum. School Year 2012-2012 starts on Aug. 13, 2012.

For more information, call 235-2185, 234-0898 or visit greenmeadowsaipan.com. Email: green_meadow07@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Air Force to conduct training at FDM today

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla today, July 6, from 8am to 12:59am.

The general public-especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators-are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 6, 1999

WPEC opposes any takeover proposal

Business leaders have expressed opposition against compromising the Covenant provisions to allow the federal government to control local immigration, minimum wage and customs standards on the heels of several legislation under consideration by the U.S. Congress. The Western Pacific Economic Council (WPEC) has issued its position on the federal takeover proposals awaiting actions in both houses of the Congress, noting the relentless attacks and accusations against the Northern Marianas in recent months. "WPEC cautions against any deviation from the position that the CNMI Covenant should be protected at all costs," the group said in a statement. "WPEC cautions against any change in position where total local control of immigration and minimum wage should be protected."

LSG to invest $250K for a kiosk

How would you like to sit and talk with your friends or relatives who are about to leave Saipan for a few more minutes as they wait for their flight? Well, the Commonwealth Ports Authority is finalizing the construction of a kiosk at Saipan International Airport which will allow well-wishers to have a burger, BBQ plate lunches, pizza or may be just have a cup of coffee. Before the end of the year, LSG Lufthansa will operate the snack bar which will be located right next to the ATM machine.

July 6, 2000

Court orders DOC to provide facility for mentally-ill inmates

Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas has ordered the CNMI government to certify on or before July 12, 2000 that the corrections facility where murder suspect Dwayne M. Sibetang is currently being detained conforms with the requirements of the Patient's Rights Act and the Criminal Commitment Act. Both the PRA and the CCA require that Mr. Sibetang receive prompt and adequate treatment by qualified mental health professionals. Since Mr. Sibetang is detained at the Division of Corrections, it is the responsibility of the custodial officials to ensure that such services are provided for detainees like him. At the same time, the CNMI government should certify that the Commonwealth Health Center's treatment facility where he is receiving treatment is sufficiently staffed with qualified mental health professionals.

CUC to carry out reforms

The board of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is reviewing recommendations that will reform its operations and policies which officials hope will improve its services to the community. Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero said that while CUC has focused on the Saipan power project, other issues and concerns continue to draw much-needed attention. "The board has spent a good deal of its time reviewing operations policies and practices, completing draft internal guidelines for the expenditure of official representation accounts, clarifying utility extension policies, which will now undergo internal review before final publication," he told a recent meeting.

July 6, 2001

Landfill bidding may reach court

Lawyers of losing joint venture bidder Western Equipment, Inc. and DRC Pacific, Inc. said they will exhaust all legal remedies to get the multi-million dollar contract for the construction of the Marpi Solid Waste Facility, even it means going to court. "We'll pursue all our legal remedies. At the moment, we're waiting for their response," said Bruce Mailman, one of the legal counsels for WEI-DRC. Mailman said the government "can't just sweep" the bidding process that will eventually turn out to be a "mockery of the regulation" if the contract is eventually awarded to the joint venture of Dick Pacific Corporation and Pacific Drilling Ltd.

US panel: Drop 50-50 funding requirements

A key panel of the US Congress recently approved its version of the 2002 Interior Appropriations Bill which, among others, questioned the compact impact provision that requires the Commonwealth to match federal funding dollar-for-dollar. The US Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee contained a provision questioning the local match mandate for the compact impact agreement and asking the Secretary of Interior to reconsider amending the agreement.

Police classifies death as suicide

On Monday, July 2, 2012, at about 2:56pm, a missing persons report was filed at DPS Central. The missing person reported was 20-year-old local male, Vincent R. Deleon Guerrero.

Deleon Guerrero was last seen Friday evening, June 29, 2012, at about 11pm, at his residence located on Capitol Hill.

Last Monday, July 2, at 6:17pm, police discovered the remains of Deleon Guerrero hanging from a tree in the jungle near his residence. The remains were transported to the Commonwealth Health Center where Deleon Guerrero was pronounced dead at 7:47pm by Dr. Gregory Kotheimer.

No sign of foul play was established. The case is classified as a suicide. ***(DPS)***

Operation Dry Water extended in Guam

APRA HARBOR, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard and the Guam Police Department are partnering in the fourth annual nationwide boating under the influence education, detection and enforcement campaign running through the month of July.

A national initiative, Operation Dry Water key principles are education and enforcement aimed at reducing alcohol and drug-related accidents and fatalities, primarily amongst recreational boaters.

"Dry Water is normally a single weekend, but with a number of significant holidays and events in July on Guam, we have joined with Guam Police Department to increase our enforcement operations throughout the entire month," said Lt. j.g. Rich Russell, Enforcement Chief for Sector Guam.

Boating under the influence is dangerous and illegal. Alcohol continues to be a leading cause in recreational boating related accidents, injuries and deaths. In the past five years, there have been 778 total alcohol-related boating deaths across the nation.

Coast Guard and Guam Police will be patrolling areas throughout Guam, conducting boating safety checks and sobriety tests. Anyone found to be intoxicated could have their voyage terminated, receive a civil fine or be arrested.

Coast Guard Sector Guam reminds mariners: be a responsible vessel operator, boat safe, don't drink and operate a vessel.

For more information about Operation Dry Water, visit: http://www.operationdrywater.org/ ***(USCG)***

Duenas named to Western Pacific fishery council

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Commerce has appointed Michael P. Duenas to a seat on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. Michael Duenas was appointed to an obligatory seat, which is specific to a state or territory. He will replace Manny Duenas, president of the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association, who has represented Guam since 2003.

Michael Duenas is the general manager of the GFCA. He is one of 30 new and returning members to the eight regional fishery management councils that work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service. The new and appointed council members will begin their three-year terms on Aug. 11, 2012.

"I am pleased that the Department of Commerce has appointed Michael Duenas to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council," said Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU). "Michael has more than a decade of experience working with the Guam Fishermen's Co-Op, where he has worked to promote conservation policies and maintain sustainable fishery practices on Guam.

"Michael's appointment will help to ensure that the needs of our fishing community on Guam are addressed, and his expertise in the field will help the Council fulfill its mission of protecting fish stocks through local and community involvement." ***(PR)***

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Burglary at Facey Farms

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for information on a burglary theft incident that occurred at a residence located at Facey Farms, Papago.

On Thursday, June 28, 2012, at about 6:30pm, the victims, a 30-year-old male and 24-year-old female, reported the incident to the police. Earlier, the female victim discovered the crime when she arrived home. The house was ransacked and personal items were stolen.

The items stolen included a black 20" Samsung flatscreen TV, a silver MacBook Pro laptop, a grey HP Pavilion DV5 laptop, a black Sony headphone Voice Cancel, a black iPod charger, and $300 cash.

The point of entry was through a kitchen window that was pried open.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

CNMI GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

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STAYWELL Contact Information

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FlameTree Terrace Office Building, Lower Capitol Hill

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

Helping the spouses of those who serve

By MICHELLE OBAMA
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Shelly Snell is a registered nurse. She's been married to Navy Commander Ben Snell for 16 years. They have two boys. And as a Navy family, the Snells have moved nine times.

It's a fact of life for military spouses—when the country calls, they step up to answer. When their loved ones are sent overseas for months on end, they're holding everything together back home. When the PTA, the parish council, the Little League or the Girl Scouts need a volunteer, they're the first ones to raise their hands. And when they're asked to pack up their family and begin a new life in a new hometown, they're proud to do it.

But for so many military spouses like Shelly, each move to a new state also means a return to a familiar headache: renewing a professional license. Shelly has renewed her license as a nurse seven times—and she's not alone. More than 100,000 military spouses throughout America serve in a profession that requires a license or certification to work; that's more than one-third of military spouses in the labor force. So for teachers, nurses, real estate agents, accountants, physical therapists and dozens of other kinds of professionals, a move can mean gathering old transcripts, paying new fees, filling out a pile of paperwork, and sometimes even taking entry-level classes—no matter how many years of experience they have.

It's a process that can take months. And during that time, these military spouses can't practice their profession, even though there are jobs open in their new communities and companies desperate to hire them. That means their skills go unused while their families try to get by without the income they need. It means they are unable to advance in the careers they trained for—often for years. And sometimes, the hassle is simply too much, and these spouses choose to quit the careers they love and choose new ones that are more friendly to a military lifestyle. So it's no wonder that military spouses bring this issue up to me more than any other.

Luckily, this is an eminently solvable problem. Each state has the power to act on behalf of our nation's military families. We simply need the will to do it. That's why, in February, Jill Biden and I issued a nationwide call through our Joining Forces initiative, asking all 50 states to pass legislation by 2014 to help make it easier for military spouses to obtain new professional licenses when they move. Since then, the number of states that have enacted measures to solve this problem has grown from 11 to 23.

Governors and legislators in these states have worked together across the aisle, because supporting our military families is something we can all agree on. They're coming up with solutions that work for their states. They're helping military spouses get to work while they complete any remaining state-specific requirements. And they're doing it all without lowering their professional standards one bit—they're simply finding ways to account for the realities of military life.

So we've come a long way. But we're not finished yet. There are still 27 states that have not yet enacted measures

See HELPING on next page

Addictions

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Penn State Litany Lion Jerry Sandusky's sexual penchant boys in his charity program has since put Coach Joe Paterno's assistant behind bars and on a suicide watch.

Whispering Palms principal reportedly viewed child porn on his federally funded laptop, an embarrassment to the well-regarded school.

The numerous reports of female teachers taking advantage of their pubescent wards, religious clerics molesting the faithful, and public leaders acting like residents of the funny farm, led us to re-examine the psychotic typologies that underlie addictions.

My sister in Honolulu usually have on stock, at least, two bottles of Merlot and/or Cabernet Sauvignon, unopened gifts from friends. The household does not normally imbibe the libation. Having learned to appreciate the juice of the vine in our travels, we take to the bottle like the French take to Evian water. I quickly earned the reputation of being an alcoholic.

The charge is not quite inaccurate for there is factual evidence. While in Saskatchewan, we picked up a fifth of the Scot single malt whiskey Glenfiddich each time we crossed the U.S.-Canada border, at the incredible price of $2.95 per green bottle (now $42 at Ada Int'l). We liberally consumed the fluid, and since Seagram was in the neighborhood, developed a taste for seven-seven, as well. China's *pijiu* (beer) and Changyu's wines *(hongjiu)* are relatively inexpensive compared to what Saipan's Galleria offers so we are hitting 10 bottles of the 580 ml beer bottles per week at 40 cents each. Cabernet is under $5.

My Brit neighbor downs his wine like mineral water, and across the way is Marushka *sans* the Babushka who easily quaffs her vodka past me already plastered under the table. My *tomodachi* down the hall loves his *sake,* and our Aussie buddy will drink any fluid that quickly evaporates. Our Iranian goes with the Prophet so he does not touch the stuff unless his wife is not around and wants to be naughty.

I am not yet convinced that I am an alcoholic since consumption is hardly a drop in the bucket compared to my neighbors, but the volume of empty beer bottles coming out of my room is a cause for alarm.

We just finished final grades and since my laptop is not compatible with the university system, I double-timed in an office terminal. The glass of vino came in handy at night. Raised a Methodist with a temperance temperament, we shun the stuff. The chalice in the Eucharist is filled to the brim with unfermented juice. Of course, Wesley's objection was not so much against the gin as the fact that grains were headed for the bottle rather than baked for the hungry and needy! Moralistic Wesleyans missed that one.

It is the cloves on the tobacco, however, that might cut down my years. Cold turkey'd in '84, I avoid sniffing the nicotine-laden smoke like the plague. However, I snuck out a year ago six packs of Indonesian *Sigaret Kretek* from the faculty room that I originally intended to trash. I opened a couple of weeks ago. I have been puffing away ever since. One fat unfiltered stick a day was the start; am now into three, and just added another to finish this piece!

Buss. Cough. Buss. Cough. Buss. Cough. Addiction. We all choose our own poison.

I inhaled on two occasions in Jamaica where the cannabis grew naturally with the coffee on the Blue mountain slopes. In the early '80s, my first, the rolled weed came at the opening celebration of a training I was dean-ing, and since I was rested and fresh, the high led us to an experience of incredible lucidity. Four weeks later, tired and short of sleep, a puff of cannabinoids sent us to a nightmare of distrust and confusion.

We picked up malaria around Nigeria's Lagos lagoon. Our nurse prescribed a *ganja* puff from the abundant native supply. It sent me climbing the walls, and that was the end of our cannabis venture.

Until two years ago, I never touched any synthetic recreational drug, though LSD was the experiment of choice among radical friends in the university. Then I assisted a convicted "ice" felon try to shake the habit. We are not sure we succeeded. The subject denied the addiction though we clearly noticed a psychological one. It took six months to extricate him from the easy meth supply on Saipan. We did join once in a puff and we now understood why there is much attraction to the consumption and how he could have easily backslid. That accelerated a quick repatriation back to his country of origin. I got a crash course on drug addiction in return.

Why do we turn addicts?

Psychotic typologies identify six types: the paranoid, the obsessive-compulsive, the attention seeker, the depressive, the schizoid, and the narcissistic. I think that we all have tendencies for all six, but when a particular one predominates and overwhelms, we say that the devil takes over, and we are into addiction.

What's your addiction?

Mine at the moment, other than the current nicotine buss, is our caffeine consumption from tea and coffee. We did notice a considerable portion of our financial resource going to mango, lychee, durian, mangosteen, plum, rambutan, peach, melons, cherries, and beer. That addiction is confirmed and there is no turning back.

We know that human addiction to power, prestige, and possessions pollute the soul. We could write a book on that one, but why bother? It's in the papers everyday!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Probed by aliens!

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at Tropical Ed.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.

Would you like an advance look at next month's news? Here it is: NASA's Mars rover, dubbed "Curiosity," is due to land on the red planet on Aug. 5. You've heard of getting probed by aliens? Well, this time around, we're the aliens, and Curiosity is the probe. Take that, you Martians!

Curiosity is pretty much an off-road vehicle that digs in the dirt and does scientific stuff. Part of that stuff involves sniffing for signs of life. Of the several probes that have landed on Mars, Curiosity might have the best shot at finding any little living critters, or perhaps evidence of the dearly departed.

This is just one angle of today's boom in astronomy. Indeed, much of the "some day" material they were talking about when I was in school is now getting written into texts. For example, in recent years they've already tallied hundreds of planets outside of our solar system.

And that distant planet stuff, along with the nearby Mars stuff, leads to the inevitable speculation about extraterrestrial life, be it humble microbes or advanced civilizations. Some such interest is science. And some is populism. After all, the notion of LGM (Little Green Men) has captured the fancy of the mass mind ever since I've been around, just as notions of monsters and strange beings have long pre-dated the concept of space. So if public interest in UFOs and LGM keeps funding NASA's work in physics and related fields, then I'm all for it.

Even if Curiosity merely comes up with the humblest of Little Green Microbes it will be the stuff of giant headlines. One scenario is that it finds some microbes that are hangers-on from the era when Mars was awash with water.

Meanwhile, whatever it finds or doesn't find, Curiosity itself holds the promise of being a historic accomplishment. It's one that is riding the coattails of other ingenious exploits. If you're old enough to remember disco you might recall the first Mars rover, called Viking, which landed on Mars in 1976. I still remember the first photos sent back by Viking, they were all over the newspapers and magazines.

Back then I thought: Wow, Mars!

Today I think: Wow, Mars!

Yeah, some things never change. I'm still awed by the Viking accomplishment. Heck, you don't even need an interest in astronomy to be smitten by the engineering behind the gig.

While I'm on the subject, I'll note yet another inspiring mission: The Voyager I spacecraft, launched in 1977, is still going strong and is now the first man-made object to reach the edge of the solar system. It's going to keep on truckin' and should be sending back data from interstellar space. No, it doesn't hold the drama of LGM headlines, but it takes various measurements of interest to scientists.

Speaking of measurements, most of us would define "eternity" as the time it takes to fly from Los Angeles to Narita. Well, Curiosity trumps us on that count, as it enters the home-stretch of a 352-million mile, nine-month voyage.

That's long by people standards, but just a blink of an eye in the cosmos. Our nearest star (besides the sun) is about 25 trillion miles away. All these zeros make my head swim, and you engineers can double-check me on this, but I come up with about 53,000 years to cover that distance if nine months to Mars is the benchmark speed.

So you'd better make your peace with this solar system, my friends, because it's a long drive to the next joint.

Mars might seem like cozy turf, being situated here in our friendly solar system, but Mars is not a nice place. It manages to gobble up many of the craft sent its way. Hence the term "Mars curse" and the long, spooky list of missions that have veered into oblivion.

Therefore, it's not a foregone conclusion that Curiosity will even survive its approach and touchdown. I've posted a link on my website that takes you to a 5-minute video that describes the challenges of the landing phase. It's wild stuff.

If you'd like to follow the drama I've also posed a link to NASA's countdown clock. As I write these words we're 32 days, seven hours, 41 minutes, and 18 seconds from touchdown.

Will it survive the landing? Will everything work? And if it does, what will it find? This is a true nail-biter. Stay tuned.

Dangers of habitual assumptions

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.*

As adults we know the troubles that arise when we assume something. Dividing the word up with a closer look at the first three letters sends us reeling for some lame claim it won't happen to us. But we go in and out of our daily routine, unconsciously taking things for granted once more or assuming everything's fine, only to repeat old habits.

For instance, we get into our cars taking for granted that when we switch the ignition it will fire up and off we go. We assume that when we go to the store there would be food on shelves and chill boxes.

We assume that the delivery of healthcare is fine, forgetting that severe underfunding has crippled operations at CHC. We assume there's revenue, unaware that this administration has exacted severe economic contraction for six steady years. Perhaps Fitial and Inos have credible answers to convey to the cynically and suspiciously trusting multitude for their prominently visible inaction.

Could we assume we'd be able to defray the cost of basic services, given the severity of revenue contraction in recent past? Is it safe to assume you'd still have a job in the near term? Can we assume the administration could meet its debts with the Retirement Fund?

With revenue scarcity, can you still assume you'd have the ability to pay for the first family home if you're included in a reduction-in-force? Would austerity help you any if it has to be trimmed even further? With a likely severe blow to your salary, would you still be able to afford the prohibitive cost of utilities, gasoline at the pumps, health insurance, family healthcare, monthly medication, and basic goods? What if as a retiree you find your bank account empty because the Fund is finally broke? What's beyond the mess we're in? Hopelessness? Uncertainty? More red shirts spewing off tired old lies?

The bankruptcy that has engulfed these islands isn't anything we could take for granted or assume there's a permanent fix to it. The instant soba mindset doesn't fit this traumatic, if not crippling financial scenario. It isn't a perceptual condition either, given its reality, severity and how it has paralyzed our confidence in jobs, pension, healthcare, education, etc.

There's no room for sweet *mañana* or the usual mediocrity that has devoured the minds of the elected elite like flesh eating bacteria. At least we could agree (and not assume) that taking things for granted belongs in the ash heap of the Puerto Rico dump.

Too, history is replete with lessons why one must never assume anything!

■ ■ ■ ■

The joy of losing

One of the various idiosyncrasies I do is picking and researching a simple or complex topic then preparing something for this corner of the paper in hopes of being understood specifically in the perspective that I've carved for public consumption. Never short on inspiration, I love working with ideas no matter how simple or difficult.

This routine brought me back to the incipiency of politics in the islands in the '50s and '60s. I only caught the late '50s and early '60s and missed the more bigoted period plastered in ethnocentricity that hailed from Carolinians and Chamorros or popular and progressive parties.

The political intramural was like rooting for a baseball team that loses 100 out of 103 games per season. I don't attend campaigns to steel my spine, perfect my character nor did I aspire to enter the fray or journey into the dark night of the soul. Bigotry was sufficiently a discouraging word. Losing was normal MO for the progressive party.

In nearly every game, the popular party would score seven grand slams about every inning. There's nothing charming, cuddly or amusing when automatic loss is the baptismal curse handed redundantly on a silver platter at game's end. Well, after seasons of consistent loss it no longer triggers anger but a punctured ego far removed from the realm of calamity. Your team goes home with tails tucked between their legs.

You go to the old baseball field in Susupe as twilight gleams, kids romping and everyone is happy including my team set to lose another outing. Even opposing fans cheer lustily for our J-4s especially when the score is close like 12-1. And we love the absence of expectations. It was just friendly competition.

Baseball is a slow game as I found out in broadcasting long time ago. It's boring, complex, cerebral and without histrionics. When our team repeats defeat, the calm is eerily silent and a bit more profound. But faithful fans are relaxed, tolerant, and appreciative of any small, even superficial moral victory, on our behalf.

There was once an outing when the game was even up to the last inning. The progressive had the winning run on second. It was an all out chance for its first pennant. When the slugger hit a long knock to deep center field, a fan deflected it and the game was declared a tie. The fan went into permanent hiding while the fateful ball was ritually exorcised on suspicion it was tainted with deadly local medicine, like young coconut fronds just picked off a tree.

Throughout the years, the progressives finally pieced the missing puzzle together. It was able to remove competent mediocrity and lame respectability to tire out the opposition in the late '70s. But for the length of time it had to endure losses, their attitude of learning the joy of losing was admirable.

■ ■ ■ ■

Bankruptcy: Rep. S. Ramon Basa said there's a "rebound" in the local economy alluding to some additional $12 million in "projected" revenues. That assertion is insufficient and he must ensure earmarks for Medicaid and SNAP too. A lot of people need healthcare, critical medication and some more moolah to put food on the table. *Fan ma'ase' ni anten miyu.*

HELPING

From Page 10

to address this issue. So I want to ask for your help. Talk to leaders in your community. Make your voice heard. Do your part to make this issue a priority.

That's what it's going to take to get this done. And make no mistake—we must get this done. We owe it to our troops and military families. They have done so much for all of us. Whenever our country has called, they've answered.

So on this issue—and so many others—we can show them how much we appreciate their service and their sacrifice. We can give back in real, meaningful ways. And together, we can serve our men and women in uniform and their families as well as they have served us.

Michelle Obama is first lady of the United States. She wrote this for the Baltimore Sun.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Here's what you should do with added revenue

One of the most beautiful aspects of our Chamorro and Carolinian cultures is our respect for our elders. Parents continue this aspect of our culture by teaching their children to "fan ngegi'" all elders, call them "nan' and "tun" out of respect and to love and care for them.

The Retirement Fund is faced with a $300 million shortfall in government contributions, which will result in the collapse of the Retirement Fund in about two years. Today we learn that Medicaid owes medical providers over $15 million in unpaid bills, which has resulted in medical providers no longer accepting Medicaid as a form of payment.

Also today we learn that the 2013 budget will include an expected increase in government revenue of $10 million to $12 million. And how do our government officials propose to spend these additional dollars?

The additional government revenue will be spent to "primarily restore 80 work hours biweekly." To look at this from the other point of view, this means to primarily NOT respect our elderly by properly funding their NMI Retirement Fund. Would our government officials prefer to see our elderly die from starvation rather than properly fund the Retirement Fund with these newfound dollars?

In addition it means to primarily NOT properly caring for sick and dying family members who depend on Medicaid insurance to pay for their treatment and medication. Would our government officials prefer to see our sick and dying simply die as soon as possible in order to reduce the cost of Medicaid?

Ask our citizens how they would like to see additional government revenue spent: by first restoring payroll or by first showing proper respect for our elderly, sick, and dying. The answer should come from the people, not officials seeking re-election.

Let's do our best to preserve our Chamorro and Carolinian culture by emphasizing respect for our elders and by caring for the medical needs of our sick and dying family members.

Lucy Norita Shilling
Capital Hill, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

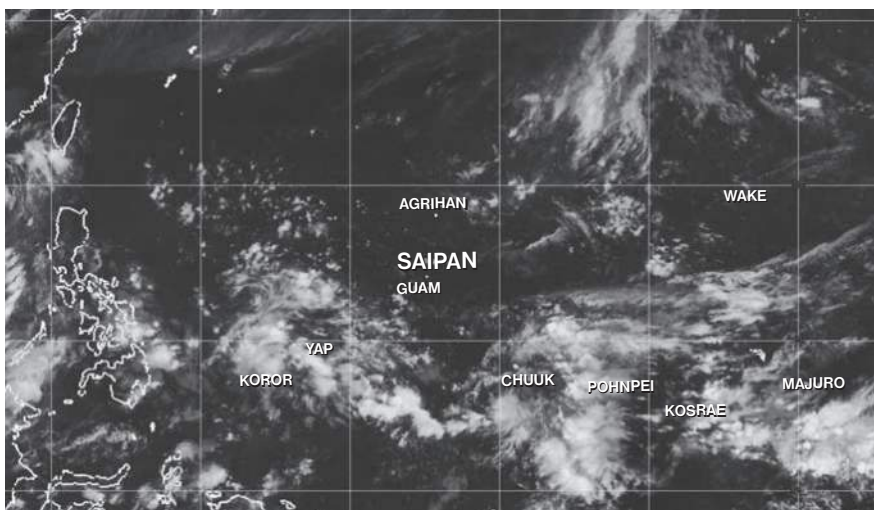
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼75
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲61	▼47
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲87	▼74
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼74
London	Rain	▲68	▼56
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼38
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
New York	Sunny	▲93	▼70
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼75
Paris	Showers	▲70	▼57
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼70
Rome	Sunny	▲89	▼68
Salem	Sunny	▲80	▼54
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼52
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲78	▼68
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼73
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲100	▼79

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JULY 5, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging low-level winds to the southwest of Koror are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest of a line from 3N130E to EQ133E. A surface trough curves northwest between Yap and Koror from 1N139E to beyond 12N130E. This trough and trade-wind convergence north of the trough are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms around Koror and Yap within 250 miles of a line from 13N133E to 3N145E. A surface trough extends northeastward from southwest of Chuuk at 4N148E to northeast of Chuuk at 13N153E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found between Chuuk and Pohnpei from the equator to 12N from 153E to 158E. Converging trades east of the trough are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Kosrae and south of Majuro between 1N and 7N from 163E to 177E. An upper-level trough curves southwestward from 25N171E to east of Wake Island to 14N162E to near Guam at 14N144E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found south of the trough between 8N and 14N from 162E to 168E. Low pressure is far northwest of Wake Island and scattered showers are in an area northeastward from 22N between 150E and 160E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:35 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:29 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
4:45 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
11:35 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Sunday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Monday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Tuesday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:53 PM	8:00 AM
Saturday	9:36 PM	8:56 AM
Sunday	10:16 PM	9:49 AM
Monday	10:55 PM	10:39 AM
Tuesday	11:34 PM	11:29 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 13, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

$224,194 released to owners of defunct Plumeria

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Too late.

This was the message of Superior Court associate David A. Wiseman to one of the owners of the defunct Plumeria Resort who asked the court to stay the release of his $224,194 that he placed as an appeal bond.

Wiseman on Tuesday ruled that Wan Jin Yoon's motion to stay the release of the money is untimely because the funds have already been released to the Saipan Achugao Resort Members' Association, or SARMA.

Also, Yoon presented no legal authority to justify the stay in releasing the funds, said Wiseman.

He said he will separately rule on Yoon's motion for reconsideration of his May 9, 2012, decision to release the funds being held in bond to SARMA.

In his May 9 decision, Wiseman ordered that the appeal bond posted by Yoon and held by the court shall be released by the clerk of court to SARMA through its attorney, Sean Frink, in trust for his client.

"SARMA has been denied the judgment amount for over five years. The court finds that further denying SARMA its right to its $224,194 judgment is not proper and would defeat the purpose of and policy behind the posting of an appeal bond," Wiseman said.

SARMA is composed of members who own subleased interest in units or commercial spaces at the Plumeria Resort.

Plumeria Resort was built in 1990 by Saipan Joint Venture, which assigned the ground lease to SARMA in 2000.

» Judge says funds owner's request not to disburse money too late

SARMA sued one of its members, Yoon, for alleged non-payment of management fees and maintenance fees. Yoon filed a counter lawsuit against SARMA for the alleged forced sale of his unit.

In May 2006, Wiseman ruled that SARMA's forced sale of Yoon's unit was improper because Yoon was not in default of either lease or SARMA's bylaws at the time of the sale.

Wiseman, however, determined that Yoon is subject to dues assessments and emergency repair fees from March 7, 2003, "to the present."

In November 2006, Wiseman ordered Yoon to remit $224,194 to SARMA.

Yoon then appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court and requested a stay of judgment.

In March 2007, Wiseman stayed the appeal on the condition that Yoon submits to the court a supersedeas bond in the amount of the judgment, plus 10 percent of the judgment to cover interest, plus $250 to cover costs.

On April 2, 2007, the court received a cashier's check in the amount of $246,863.40 from Yoon.

SARMA then filed a motion to release the money. Wiseman heard the motion on Jan. 19, 2012.

In SARMA's motion, Frink cited that in October 2011, the CNMI Supreme Court affirmed SARMA's $224,194 judgment against Yoon.

Frink said the immediate release of the money as payment is many years overdue and that it is needed to reopen the hotel.

Yoon, through counsel Richard W. Pierce, however filed a counter motion to release the funds to him and a determination of damages pursuant to the Supreme Court's ruling on his appeal.

Wiseman disagreed with Yoon and ordered the release of the money.

On March 23, 2012, Yoon filed the motion asking the court to stay disbursement of the money to SARMA and to maintain the status quo pending his concurrent motion for reconsideration of the court's May 9 order.

At the time, the money had already been released to SARMA, Wiseman said.

LIBERATION DAY CLARISSA V. DAVID
Liberation Day Committee chair Jonas Barcinas, left, has his picture taken with members of the 2012 Liberation Queen and Royal Court after the Liberation Day parade on Wednesday.

Wing Beach cleanup needs volunteers

The Division of Environmental Quality's cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Wing Beach tomorrow, July 7, 2012, at 8am.

If you would like to volunteer, meet the DEQ representatives on Saturday at the beach entrance parking lot.

Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

Last month, the cleanup at COP Beach was successful with over 45 volunteers participating. Thanks to Koblerville Elementary School, Kagman High School, CUC, and other volunteers, 580 lbs of trash was removed from the beach and properly disposed off. DEQ would also like to thank D&Q for the refreshments.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(DEQ)***

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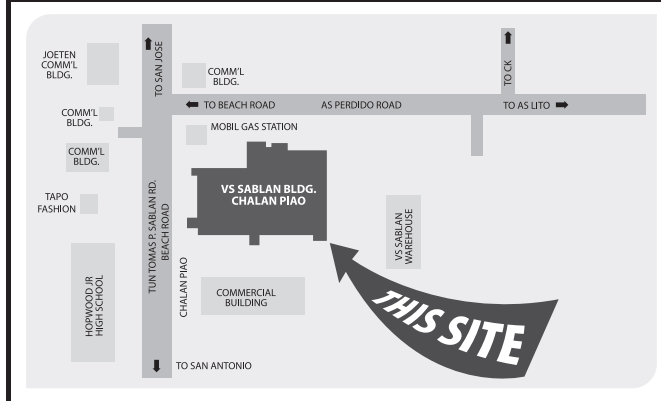
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Contact Tony Muna (Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: plebechamp80@gmail.com) or Ben Sablan (Cell No. 898-9285 Email Address: vicente_sablan@yahoo.com) or Call 234-2585.

Fitial to represent native NMI culture at climate change talks

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will represent the CNMI when he joins other Pacific Island and coastal tribe community leaders who will comprise a panel during an inaugural symposium discussing climate change.

The "First Stewards: Coastal Peoples Address Climate Change" is slated for July 17 to 20 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. and will be hosted by the coastal indigenous people led by the Hoh, Makah, and Quileute Tribes and the Quinault Indian Nation.

The symposium will be a national event examining the impact of climate change on indigenous coastal cultures and exploring solutions based on millennia of traditional ecological knowledge, according to a media release issued by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council.

"All around the United States, coastal indigenous people are confronted with loss of food, loss of land, loss of a way of life due to global climate change. But they are working to adapt, as they've adapted to changing conditions for millennia," the statement said.

The event is a partnership between the tribal and Pacific Island indigenous communities with scientists, governmental and non-governmental organizations such as the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, National Congress of American Indians, National Marine Sanctuaries and National Marine Fisheries Service under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, and The Nature Conservancy.

Other partners include American Native Renewables; EA Engineering, Science, and Technology; Salmon Defense, Uncas Consulting Services; and United south and Eastern Tribes.

A third generation Refaluwasch, Fitial will be among the hundreds of native chiefs, witnesses, and climate scientists, along with policymakers and non-government organizations for a "groundbreaking" dialogue in what is planned to be an annual meeting to discuss the issue of climate change.

Visit www.firststewards.org for more information about the symposium.

FBI to phase out American Samoa operations

All Federal Bureau of Investigation operations and investigative efforts in the U.S. territory of American Samoa will now be handled by the FBI office in Honolulu, Hawaii, according to Vida G. Bottom, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Honolulu Office yesterday.

The decision for this consolidation was made by the U.S. Congress who cited budgetary reasons.

"The FBI is committed to continuing our investigations into issues of national security and federal criminal activity on American Samoa," Bottom said. "However, budgetary realities can no longer justify staffing an office on American Samoa full time."

The Honolulu division of the FBI conducts investigations on several islands in the Pacific, including Tinian, Rota, Kauai, Lanai, and Molokai, where no permanent FBI office exists.

The FBI's American Samoa office opened in 2006 as a satellite of the Honolulu field office. During that time, many high-profile public corruption, civil rights and violent crime investigations have resulted in criminal convictions. The FBI's office on American Samoa will be phased out gradually over the next few months as equipment and supplies can be moved to Honolulu.

American Samoa residents who wish to report criminal activity or national security concerns to the FBI should contact the Honolulu field office at 808-566-4300. ***(FBI)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Royce Angelo Ben, who is celebrating his special day today, July 6, 2012! With every passing year, you're growing a little more. And you are definitely someone that we will always adore. Happy 11th birthday! We love you! Greetings come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DUI checkpoints today, tomorrow

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting sobriety checkpoints today, July 6, and tomorrow, July 7.

Today's checkpoint will be on Beach Road Garapan by the 13 Fishermen's Monument from 10:30pm to 11:45pm. Tomorrow's checkpoint will be on Chalan Pale Arnold (Middle Road) by the Sherwin Williams building, from 1:30am to 2:45am.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes).

In addition, traffic and highway patrol officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement.

This activity is part of the department's effort to deter, detect, and apprehend impaired drivers, and to ensure that all passengers are wearing proper restraining devices, seatbelts, or car seats. ***(PR)***

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Library Friends to hold book sale on July 7

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Library Friends, a group that helps the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library raise funds to purchase more books to add to the collections of the CNMI's state library, is now holding a book sale every first Saturday of the month.

Group president Maureen E. Sebangiol said Wednesday that they decided to have the book sale regularly instead of having it at random due to increased volume of donated books and the increasing number of people leaving island.

"Additionally, we thought that if we did it more predictably, we could increase the amount of books moving into the homes of those that enjoy reading," she said.

The group is scheduled to hold its next book sale this Saturday, July 7, from 8am to noon outside the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe.

During book sale events, Library Friends puts up for sale different learning materials—from hardback books, CDs, and DVDs that are $1 apiece, to paperbacks for only 50 cents or magazines that are 10 cents each. They also offer videotapes which "may be had for free" but without guarantee that they play.

Sebangiol said the book sale generates funds that "can range from enough to pay for the tent and pizza for the staff/volunteers to up to $370."

"In the past, we were able to apply for grants and receive donations from community organizations but for the past four years we have not had a board of directors so we cannot access these other revenue streams," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Lack of participation, Sebangiol noted, still remains an issue in the group as only the same three individuals show up to be involved whenever a Library Friends meeting is scheduled.

"Only one of these people has expressed an interest in taking a leadership position with Library Friends but I cannot turn over the presidency unless we have a quorum of Library Friends members to vote in a new board," she added.

Sebangiol emphasized that Library Friends remains vital to the library and its acquisition of new materials, including those used for craft projects throughout the year.

However, she would like to turn over the group's leadership to a new set of officers so she can take on new responsibilities like starting a support group for persons with chronic lung disease and/or lung cancer.

As a mother who still has a child "in need of maternal transportation," Sebangiol pointed out that she needs to relinquish her Library Friends duties before assuming another.

"If I am unable to properly turn over the lead of Library Friends, I will have to close the organization down at the end of this year," she said. "It would sadden me deeply to have that be the end of the organization."

For more information about Library Friends, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe, or call 235-7316 and look for Erlinda Naputi or Celina Foreman.

MCS to adopt national standards for Catholic schools

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, the newly appointed president of Mount Carmel School, disclosed yesterday that the institution will adopt the recently developed National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools as part of the school's efforts to improve the quality of education for its students.

School faculty and staff, he said, will work throughout the upcoming school year to integrate the standards and benchmarks into the school's curriculum.

Saipan Tribune learned that the current curricula at MCS were developed a few years ago by the school's faculty and staff using McREL standards and benchmarks. They cover every major subject area, including language arts, math, science, social studies, physical education, and theology.

"We are very excited to move forward with these standards," said Deleon Guerrero.

Not only will these standards bring Mount Carmel in line with Catholic schools across the nation but they will raise the bar for student achievement, he said.

Developed after two years of broad collaboration among Catholic educators across the nation, the national standards contain nine "defining characteristics" of Catholic schools based on Church teachings, 13 standards, and 70 benchmarks.

Together, they describe what it means to be a Catholic school and cover four key areas: mission and Catholic identity; governance and leadership; academic excellence; and operational vitality. Work has also begun on developing resources and guidelines to link and align the standards and benchmarks with the recent Common Core State Standards.

Deleon Guerrero said that, according to Lorraine A. Ozar, PhD, the director for the Center for Catholic School Effectiveness at the School of Education at Loyala University Chicago, "With this framework, we can and must hold ourselves accountable for the excellence and rigor, faith and nurturance that have been the hallmark of Catholic education, and which we must now guarantee for future generations."

WORKFORCE READINESS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nick Pula, director of the Office of Insular Affairs, and other CNMI and federal officials visit the CNMI SHRM Workforce Readiness Initiative training program for Front Desk Clerk/Receptionist/Administrative job preparedness and skills training. From left: Pamela Brown, CNMI Federal Ombudsman; Maria Luisa Ernest, CNMI SHRM vice president; Jeff Schorr, resident representative of the Office of Insular Affairs; Nick Pula, director of the Office of Insular Affairs; Debra Camacho, CNMI SHRM president; Ivan Blanco, CNMI Deputy Secretary of Commerce; Frank Gibson, CNMI SHRM program director; and Mark Rabauliman, ELHP grant coordinator and CNMIU Registrar. Others in photo are program trainees.

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St. Croix hospital gets $1.8M grant funds from OIA

NOTHING'S CHANGED HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The stretch of road between Joeten Dandan and Northern Marianas College gets flooded every time there's heavy rain, and this is just one of the flood-prone areas on island that has received little to no attention at all.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, Tony Babauta, has awarded $1.8 million in grant funding to support the Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center on the island of St. Croix, in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The funding will be used to implement IT system improvements and software and train staff on the proper use of the system.

"I am pleased to be assisting the JFLH in their efforts to revamp their IT infrastructure to integrate all of the hospital departments in a manner that increases patient quality care and delivery of services. System improvements will go a long way in enhancing the delivery of essential primary and specialty healthcare services the JFLH provides to St. Croix community residents," said Babauta. "I am grateful to Delegate [Donna] Christensen for the critical role she has played in advocating for the Virgin Islands and for her steadfast voice in Congress ensuring essential programs are preserved and protected."

During Babauta's last visit to the Virgin Islands, Christensen coordinated a meeting with the various healthcare leaders and stakeholders from which he took away a deeper understanding of the complex and critical challenges the hospitals, the not-for-profit health clinics, and the Department of Health are struggling to overcome.

"My office does not have the resources to address all of the issues that were presented," Babauta said, "but we have engaged our relevant federal partners and local stakeholders in addressing how to coordinate our priorities so that we can leverage our resources to better assist the Virgin Islands."

The software improvements will allow the JFLH to fully customize and implement a new technological system that improves regulatory compliance and assists in better tracking patient Electronic health records as required by the Affordable Healthcare Act. ***(OIA)***

VoIP app Plingm launches in Micronesia

The growing number of smartphone users in Micronesia can now make free and low cost calls across the world. Swedish mobile VoIP app Plingm is now available in the App Store in Micronesia.

Calling with Plingm instead of a traditional mobile operator will save Micronesians large sums of money, particularly on international calls. Smartphone owners that download Plingm can make free mobile calls to each other and low cost calls to other numbers.

"Mobile VoIP is the future way of making phone calls. With Plingm, the growing number of smartphone users in Micronesia can start making free calls to friends around the world," said Pandelis Eliopoulos, Plingm co-founder.

How it works

Plingm combines the new and old ways of mobile calling in a unique way. Calls from Plingm to Plingm are connected via Internet (Wi-Fi or 3G) and are always free. With the add-on service Plingm Out, the call can be rerouted from the Internet to a traditional network at a low price, saving up to 90 percent on international calls. Additionally, Plingm supports free calls to Facebook friends and LinkedIn connections.

With an impressive App Store rating of 4.7 out of 5, Plingm combines high sound quality with user-friendliness. Instead of a username, the regular mobile number is used to call and receive calls. Plingm has been Top 1 on the App Store's social app in 13 countries.

Smartphone use in the Asia-Pacific region

The Asia-Pacific region has the highest mobile penetration in the world, and with smartphone market share steadily rising. Many customers in the area prefer to use a smartphone instead of a computer as their main device for connecting to the Internet. ***(PR)***

DOI awards 1.6M for Salt River Bay

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, Tony Babauta, has awarded $1.6 million to the Salt Bay National Historic Park and Ecological Preserve, a park co-managed with the government of the U.S. Virgin Islands and the National Park Service, for the construction of a Coastal Studies Outpost on St. Croix. The outpost will facilitate marine education and the collection of research data related to threats to natural resources, fisheries, stability of shorelines and coral reefs.

"This project is critical to revitalizing the island of St. Croix, creating jobs and generating economic development and growth. I am pleased to be supporting Gov. [John P.] deJongh in this initiative as well as Delegate [Donna] Christensen who has been a stalwart champion of marine research and education programs for the Virgin Islands," said Babauta.

The funds will also assist in solving technical challenges related to converting an abandoned haul road into an ecologically sustainable thoroughfare—a "greenway"—for future public park access. ***(OIA)***

St. Thomas water project gets $475K funding

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, Tony Babauta, has awarded $475,339 to the U.S. Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority, or VIWAPA, through the Office of Insular Affairs' Water and Wastewater Program. This grant provides funding to support VIWAPA project implementation proposals for the Anna's Retreat Water Project in St. Thomas.

Funding will support the installation of potable water distribution pipelines, service connections and fire hydrants that service the Anna's Retreat Heights area. The proposed distribution system is expected to extend from Old Tutu North through the residential community to Route 4.

"OIA is pleased to be supporting VIWAPA's efforts to increase community access to potable water systems. Increasing access to sanitation and sustainable drinking-water systems brings large aggregate benefits that improve not only individual health but also the economic development outcomes of a community," said Babauta.

The proposed project will assist VIWAPA in increasing their percentage of residential accounts connected to St. Thomas' East End water system by 55 percent. ***(OIA)***

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Saipan International Airport Roof Drainage and A/C System Improvements
AIP No. 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (CPA-SA-003-09)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management services for the Saipan International Airport Roof Drainage and A/C System Improvements Project, AIP Nos. 3-69-0002-62/65/67 (Project No. CPA-SA-003-09), Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

A. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

B. Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope;

C. Key personnel's professional qualifications, experience and availability for the proposed services; their reputation and professional integrity and competence; and their knowledge of FAA regulations, policies and procedures;

D. Quality of projects previously undertaken and capability to complete projects without having major cost escalations or overruns;

E. Past performance on contracts including cost control, quality of work and current workload and demonstrated ability to meet schedules and deadlines;

F. Firms must have a valid CNMI Business License and the ability to perform the construction management activities in the CNMI.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications for each service offered no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, July 27, 2012.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Edward M. Deleon Guerrero
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: June 28, 2012

Business

Barclays ex-CEO avoids implicating UK authorities

LONDON (AP)—The former boss of Barclays, who lost his job over a financial market-fixing scandal, said Wednesday that a Bank of England official had not encouraged him to report false data at the height of the credit crunch in 2008.

Bob Diamond, who resigned as chief executive a day earlier, was grilled by a parliamentary committee about his conversation with Paul Tucker, deputy governor of the Bank of England, on Oct. 29, 2008.

That conversation, disclosed Tuesday by Barclays, has become the focus of questions about the false data submitted by Barclays between 2005 and 2009 which last week drew a fine of $453 million by U.S. and British agencies.

The question is crucial to the development of the market-fixing scandal because it would determine whether British authorities were encouraging banks to report lower than actual borrowing rates to ease market concerns over the banks' financial health.

Banks borrow from each other daily and report at what rate they got the money. A high rate can indicate a bank is having trouble borrowing money because it is in financial trouble.

AP survey: Next president faces high unemployment

WASHINGTON (AP)—A majority of economists in the latest Associated Press Economy Survey expect the national unemployment rate to stay above 6 percent—the upper bounds of what's considered healthy—for at least four more years.

If the economists are correct, the job market will still be unhealthy seven years after the Great Recession officially ended in June 2009. That would be the longest stretch of high unemployment since the end of World War II.

And it means the job market and the economy—President Barack Obama's main political threats—would remain big challenges in either a second Obama term or President Mitt Romney's first term.

"The election isn't going to be a miracle cure for the unemployment rate—that's for sure," says Sean Snaith, an economics professor at the University of Central Florida. He thinks unemployment, which is 8.2 percent now, won't drop back to 6 percent until after 2016.

AP

In this Thursday, June 28, 2012, file photo, The White House is seen in Washington. High unemployment threatens not only President Barack Obama's re-election prospects.

Economists consider a "normal" level to be between 5 percent and 6 percent.

The economists surveyed by the AP foresee an unemployment rate of 8 percent on Election Day. That would be the highest rate any postwar president running for re-election has faced.

The survey results come before the government reports Friday on hiring during June. Fears about the economy escalated after U.S. employers added just 69,000 jobs in May, the fewest in a year and the third straight month of weak job growth.

The AP survey collected the views late last month from 32 private, corporate and academic economists on a range of issues. Among their views:

■ The economy will continue to grow only slowly. The average forecast for the April-June period is that GDP grew at an annual rate of 2 percent. That's down from a 2.4 percent forecast in April. The economists think the rate in the final six months of the year will be just 2.3 percent. That's too weak to bring the unemployment rate down.

■ Monthly job gains will average 139,000 the rest of this year—barely enough to keep up with population growth and prevent unemployment from worsening. In their forecast in April, the economists predicted average monthly job gains of 189,000.

■ The one step Europe could take that would boost confidence in its financial system quickly would be a bailout program like the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP, that Congress approved in 2008 to rescue U.S. banks after the financial crisis hit.

■ The biggest threat to the U.S. economy is the tax increases and spending cuts that will take effect Jan. 1 unless Congress reaches an agreement. Many economists and the International Monetary Fund have warned that these measures would push the economy off a "fiscal cliff" and back into recession.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Philippines says S&P upgrade nod to fiscal policy

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines says a credit rating upgrade by Standard & Poor's will help the country carry out reforms without weakening its financial position. The agency on Wednesday raised the Philippines' long-term foreign currency credit rating to BB+ from BB, one notch below investment grade. It kept the rating outlook at stable. Presidential spokesman Ricky Carandang says that while some other countries are being forced to tighten belts to get high debt under control, the Philippines can still afford to undertake public spending without jeopardizing its overall financial position. The upgrade propelled the Philippine peso to 41.72 versus the U.S. dollar, the strongest in four years.

Carmaker Volkswagen finalizes Porsche takeover

BERLIN (AP)—German carmaker Volkswagen says it is on track to finalize the full takeover of sports car manufacturer Porsche by the end of the month. Volkswagen AG said in a statement late Wednesday Porsche AG will become another fully integrated brand of the Volkswagen group as of August 1. The Wolfsburg-based group, Europe's biggest carmaker, includes brands such as Audi, Volkswagen, Seat, Bugatti, Benley and truck makers MAN and Scania. The deal is also set to restructure the companies' complicated ownership ties.

Cuba's Raul Castro visiting trading partner China

BEIJING (AP)—Cuban leader Raul Castro is in China for talks with President Hu Jintao and other leaders, his first visit to his country's key trading partner since taking office as president. Castro arrived Wednesday for a four-day visit. Cuban state media said he was accompanied by senior Cabinet official Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz and Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez. Neither side has said what issues are to be discussed. Castro visited Vietnam and China while defense minister, a post he held from 1959 until he replaced his older brother Fidel as president in 2008. He is to visit Vietnam again after leaving China.

2012 – 2013 Application For Free School Meals is now available at all public schools and at the Public School System Central Office

PUBLIC RELEASE STATEMENT REGARDING THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Public School System Food and Nutrition Services Program today announced its policy for children unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Regardless of financial standing and participation in programs such as WIC or NAP, a new free school meal application must be completed and submitted each school year to receive free school meal benefits.

Meal prices for the 2012-2013 school year will remain the same as the previous year. Students may buy a subsidized school breakfast for $0.50. Additional breakfasts can be purchased for $2.00 at elementary schools and $2.40 at secondary schools. Students may purchase a school lunch for $0.75. Additional lunches can be purchased for $3.00 at elementary schools and $3.65 at secondary schools.

Application forms are now available at the PSS Food and Nutrition Office and are being sent to all public schools with a notice to parents or guardians. Applications are available at Tinian Elementary School and Rota Junior High School as well. To apply for free meals, households must fill out the application and return it to the school or to the PSS Food and Nutrition Services office. The information provid¬ed on the applica¬tion will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials. Applica¬tions may be submitted at any time during the school year. The application can be downloaded at http://www.cnmipss.org/state-level-programs/administrative-services/food-and-nutritional-servicess/

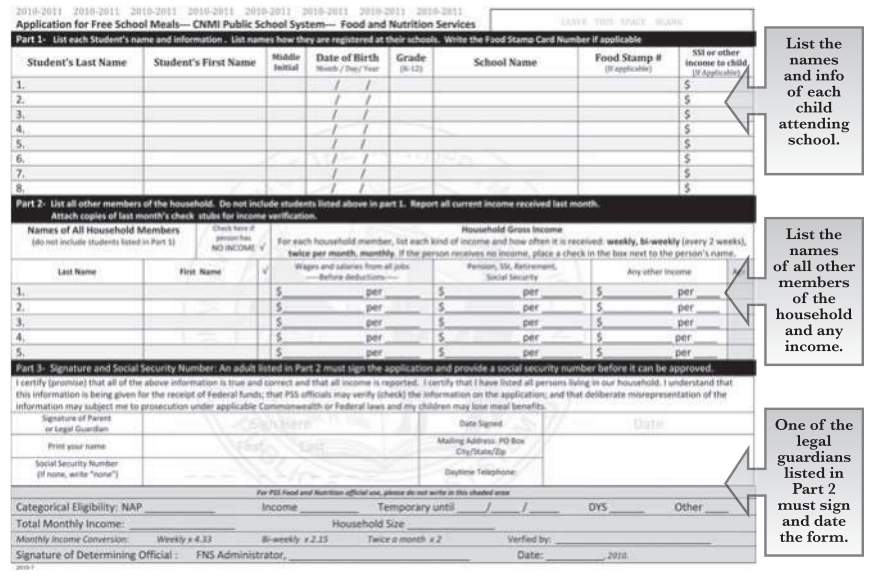
To obtain free meals for children for whose households receive Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits, an adult member needs only to list the names of the school children, give a valid food stamp case number for each child, sign his/her name, list his/her social security number, and return the application to the school office. If any student listed does not have a valid food stamp number, then the entire application must be completed with accompanying income verification documents.

For the school officials to determine eligibility for free meals of households not receiving Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits, the household must provide the following information requested on the application: names of all household members, and the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. In lieu of a social security number, the household may indicate that the signer does not possess a social security number. Also, the income received by each household member must be provided by amount and source (wages, SSI, child support, etc.). For verification purposes, copies of the most recent check stubs must be included with the application. Failure to include these items will delay the processing of the application.

Under the provisions of the free meal policy, the PSS Food and Nutrition Services Manager will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent or guardian is dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, he/she may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. If the parent/guardian wishes to make a formal appeal, he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to: Mr. Dale Roberts, PSS Food and Nutrition Services Program Manager located in government house 1254 located on Capital Hill, Saipan.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size changes, the family should contact the FNS Office. Such changes may make the house¬hold eligible for reduced price meals or free meals if the household income falls at or below the IEG levels listed in the chart, and they may reapply at that time.

In most cases, foster children are also eligible for these benefits. If a household has foster children living with them and wishes to apply for free or reduced price meals, the household should complete an application for a family of one or contact the school for more information.


Application for Free School Meals— CNMI Public School System— Food and Nutrition Services

Part 1- List each Student's name and information . List names how they are registered at their schools. Write the Food Stamp Card Number if applicable

Student's Last Name	Student's First Name	Middle Initial	Date of Birth	Grade	School Name	Food Stamp #	SSI or other income to child
1.							$
2.							$
3.							$
4.							$
5.							$
6.							$
7.							$
8.							$

Part 2- List all other members of the household. Do not include students listed above in part 1. Report all current income received last month. Attach copies of last month's check stubs for income verification.

Names of All Household Members (do not include students listed in Part 1)		Check here if person has NO INCOME	Household Gross Income: Wages and salaries from all jobs —before deductions—	Pension, SSI, Retirement, Social Security	Any other income
Last Name	First Name				
1.			$ per	$ per	$ per
2.			$ per	$ per	$ per
3.			$ per	$ per	$ per
4.			$ per	$ per	$ per
5.			$ per	$ per	$ per

Part 3- Signature and Social Security Number: An adult listed in Part 2 must sign the application and provide a social security number before it can be approved.

I certify (promise) that all of the above information is true and correct and that all income is reported. I certify that I have listed all persons living in our household. I understand that this information is being given for the receipt of Federal funds; that PSS officials may verify (check) the information on the application; and that deliberate misrepresentation of the information may subject me to prosecution under applicable Commonwealth or Federal laws and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian — Sign Here — Date Signed — Date

Print your name — Mailing Address: PO Box, City/State/Zip

Social Security Number (if none, write "none") — Daytime Telephone:

For PSS Food and Nutrition official use, please do not write in this shaded area

Categorical Eligibility: NAP ____ Income ____ Temporary until ____/____/____ DYS ____ Other ____

Total Monthly Income: ____ Household Size ____

Monthly Income Conversion: Weekly x 4.33 Bi-weekly x 2.15 Twice a month x 2 Verified by: ____

Signature of Determining Official : FNS Administrator, ____ Date: ____, 2010.

2010-1

List the names and info of each child attending school.

List the names of all other members of the household and any income.

One of the legal guardians listed in Part 2 must sign and date the form.

2012-2013 Federal Income Guidelines (IEG) for Free Meal Eligibility. If your household income falls within these guidelines your children MAY be eligible to receive free school meals.

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	2x per Month	Bi-weekly	Weekly
1	$ 14,521	$ 1,211	$ 606	$ 559	$ 280
2	19,669	1,640	820	757	379
3	24,817	2,069	1,035	955	478
4	29,965	2,498	1,249	1,153	577
5	35,113	2,927	1,464	1,351	676
6	40,261	3,356	1,678	1,549	775
7	45,409	3,785	1,893	1,747	874
8	50,557	4,214	2,107	1,945	973
Add'l member, Add……	+ 5,148	+ 429	+ 215	+ 198	+ 99

The information provided by the household on the application is confidential. PSS is authorized to release student free and school meal eligibility status only to persons directly connected with the administration and enforcement of federal or state educational programs.

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to the determining official.

Children who received free meals last school year will receive free meals for up to 30 days after the opening of school on September 4, 2012. **To avoid delays in free school meal services due to processing, all applications should be completed and submitted to PSS FNS before September 21, 2012.**

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to the determining official. The PSS FNS office can be reached on Saipan: 664-3901 / 3902 or fax 664-3717, Tinian: 237-4106/4105, Rota: 237-4046/4041/4042

Nation

Many Americans have throwback Fourth without power

MOUNT VERNON, Va. (AP)—George Washington never had air conditioning, but he knew how to keep cool: a mansion with lots of windows elevated on the banks of a wide, rolling river and lots of ice cream, maybe with a little brandy.

It was a little like the old days without electricity Wednesday, as the nation's capital region celebrated Independence Day the better part of a week into a widespread blackout that left millions of residents sweltering in 90-plus degree heat without air conditioning. Utilities have slowly been restoring service knocked out by a freak storm Friday from the Midwest to the Mid-Atlantic, and at least 26 people have died in the storm or its aftermath.

■■■

BALTIMORE (AP)—The Mid-Atlantic region is struggling to get back to normal after deadly, power-cutting storms and sweltering heat.

And the death toll blamed on storms and the ensuing blackout across the eastern U.S. is now at 26 after two accidents in Virginia.

Utility and municipal crews worked through the July 4 holiday to restore power and remove downed tree limbs.

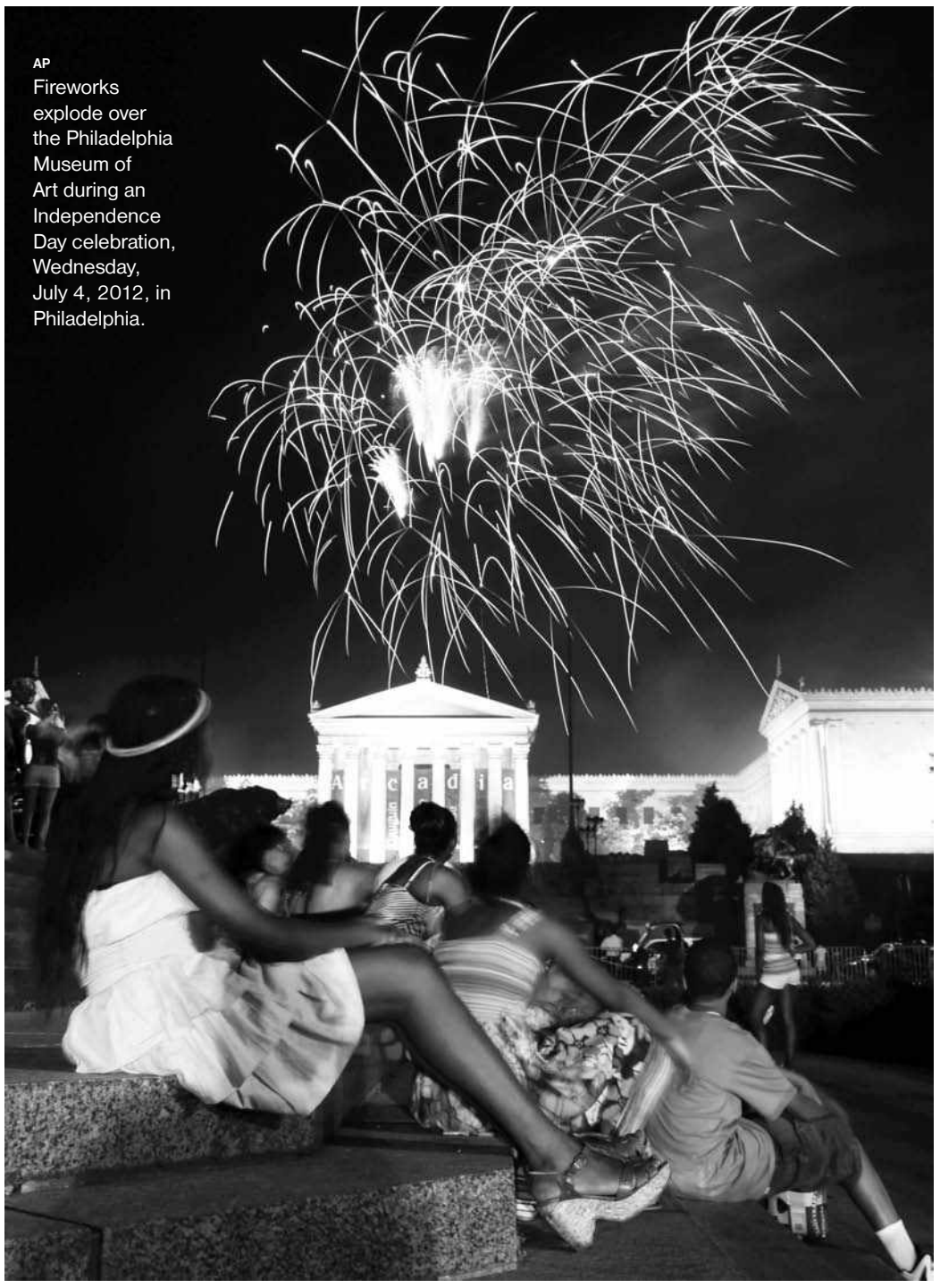
Pepco said it had restored power to 90 percent of those affected by last week's storms in D.C. and two Maryland suburbs, beating its own estimate for getting the lights and more importantly, the air conditioning back on. BGE said about 78,000 customers in central Maryland remained without power.

■■■

At George Washington's Mount Vernon estate, one of the most popular Fourth of July attractions was a demonstration of 18th-century ice cream making, one of Washington's favorite desserts. Historical interpreters Gail Cassidy and Anette Ahrens showed the crowds how cocoa beans were roasted and ground into a paste for chocolate ice cream, made using ice hauled up in massive blocks from the Potomac River and stored underground to last as long into the summer as possible.

As for beverages, Washington was no stranger to alcohol, enjoying imported Madeira wine from Portugal, distilling his own whiskey and enjoying a fruity brandy cocktail called Cherry Bounce.

Washington was his own architect at Mount Vernon, "and he was very good at it," said Dennis Pogue, associate director for preservation at Mount Vernon. The piazza, which runs the length of the mansion, is "kind of California living in the 18th century," Pogue said.



AP
Fireworks explode over the Philadelphia Museum of Art during an Independence Day celebration, Wednesday, July 4, 2012, in Philadelphia.

Romney calls Obama's health care requirement a tax

WOLFEBORO, N.H. (AP)—Mitt Romney on Wednesday said requiring all Americans to buy health insurance amounts to a tax, contradicting a senior campaign adviser who days ago said the Republican presidential candidate viewed President Barack Obama's mandate as anything but a tax.

"The majority of the court said it's a tax and therefore it is a tax. They have spoken. There's no way around that," Romney told CBS News. "You can try and say you wish they had decided a different way but they didn't. They concluded it was a tax."

Romney's comments amounted to a shift in position. Earlier in the week, senior adviser Eric Fehrnstrom said Romney viewed the mandate as a penalty, a fee or a fine—not a tax.

The Supreme Court last week ruled that the federal requirement to buy health insurance or pay a penalty is constitutional because it can be considered a tax. The requirement is part of the broad health care overhaul that Obama signed into law in March 2010.

An identical requirement was part of the state health care law that Romney enacted when he was governor of Massachusetts.

Romney

"The governor believes that what we put in place in Massachusetts was a penalty and he disagrees with the court's ruling that the mandate was a tax," Fehrnstrom said Monday on MSNBC.

Romney told CBS on Wednesday that the court opinion makes clear the state's mandate is not a tax, but a penalty.

Romney's campaign insisted it was not a change because the Republican said he agreed with the justices who dissented and would have ruled the mandate unconstitutional. The campaign said Romney agreed it is a tax simply because the court determines the "law of the land."

The back-and-forth within the GOP over what to call the mandate illustrates how difficult the health care issue is for Romney. The law he signed as governor in 2006 moved Massachusetts toward universal coverage and became a blueprint for Obama's overhaul. But Romney has spent much of the presidential campaign shying away from talking about it, preferring instead to keep voters focused on the slow economic recovery under Obama.

Both measures require individuals to have health insurance, require that businesses offer health care to their employees and provide subsidies or exemptions for people who can't afford it. Both also impose penalties on people who can afford health insurance but don't pay for it.

Despite calling Obama's mandate a tax, Romney insisted that the court ruling did not mean that he raised taxes as governor of Massachusetts.

Rain cools Colo. fires, other wildfires grow

DENVER (AP)—Rains cooled Colorado's wildfires Wednesday, but more than a dozen wildfires elsewhere in the West continued chewing through bone-dry pine and brush as firefighters working through the holiday kept a nervous eye for fireworks and other hazards.

Wildfires in Wyoming, Utah and Colorado sent haze and smoke across Colorado's Front Range, prompting air-quality health advisories as firefighters warned of growing fires in sparsely populated areas.

In Colorado Springs, there was good news in the fight against the most destructive fire in state history.

Light rains that fell overnight helped calm the Waldo Canyon Fire, which has scorched 28 square miles, killed two and destroyed almost 350 homes. Firefighters predicted full containment of the fire by Sunday, with more rain, cooler temperatures and higher humidity predicted through the weekend.

The forecast wasn't as kind in eastern Montana, where a mammoth 380-square-mile in Custer National Forest was gobbling up pine, juniper and sage with help from gusty winds. The fire has burned 16 homes.

Firefighters gave the blaze "extreme" growth potential, with wind gusts up to 45 mph predicted. Temperatures were expected to reach the 100s.

As firefighting efforts continued, holiday fireworks were canceled across the region. Colorado officials were calling off holiday displays from Fort Collins to Colorado Springs, while law enforcement was warning of hefty fines for people caught violating personal fireworks bans across the region.

Residents in some parched areas were joining police. In one Colorado Springs neighborhood, a homemade sign read, "FAIR WARNING: Anyone using or allowing use of fireworks in this neighborhood will be dealt with harshly! And that doesn't mean just by the police!"

The National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, which coordinates wildfire-fighting efforts nationwide, said 45 large fires were burning Wednesday, including 36 fires in nine Western states. In Colorado alone, three fires have destroyed more than 600 homes and killed six residents.

ACROSS THE NATION

3 children, ages 7 to 9, found dead in Iowa river

MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa (AP)—An Iowa police chief says authorities have recovered the bodies of three young children who apparently drowned in a river during a Fourth of July outing with family and friends. Marshalltown Police Chief Mike Tupper says the two girls, one 7 and the other 9, and one 7-year-old boy found Wednesday night in the Iowa River were family members. Authorities searched the river for more than three hours after they were separated from others who were swimming. It happened in the central Iowa city of Marhalltown, about 50 miles northeast of Des Moines.

Police say head belongs to Canada body parts victim

MONTREAL (AP)—A human head found in a park belongs to a Chinese student who police say was dismembered by a Canadian porn actor, authorities in Montreal confirmed Wednesday. The head of Jun Lin was the last body part still missing since he was killed and dismembered in May. Luka Magnotta is accused of dismembering his lover Lin and mailing the body parts to Canadian political parties and schools. He pleaded not guilty to murder charges last month. Lin's head was the only remaining missing body part until Sunday, when Lemieux said investigators found it in Park Angrignon after the major crimes unit received a tip. The park is a few miles (kilometers) south of Magnotta's apartment.

Fla. lifeguard fired for rescue outside beach zone

HALLANDALE BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Lifeguard Tomas Lopez helped save a drowning man and got fired for it. The reason: He left the section of a south Florida beach his company is paid to patrol. The Orlando-based company, Jeff Ellis and Associates, says Lopez broke a company rule and could have put beachgoers in his section in jeopardy. The Sun Sentinel reported Lopez was on duty Monday at Hallandale Beach when a beachgoer asked for help. Lopez said he ran to assist a man struggling in the water south of his post. By the time Lopez arrived, witnesses had pulled the drowning man out of the water. Lopez and an off-duty nurse helped him until paramedics arrived. The victim survived and was hospitalized.

Asia

Japan reactor on grid in 1st post-tsunami restart

TOKYO (AP)—Nuclear power returned to Japan's energy mix Thursday as the first reactor to be restarted since last year's earthquake and tsunami came back online, ending a nationwide shutdown that left the country without nuclear-generated electricity for the first time since 1970.

The reactor at a plant in Ohi, in western Japan, began generating power just ahead of the release of the final report by a parliamentary investigative commission examining the crisis that the tsunami touched off in Fukushima, which suffered meltdowns, explosions and massive radiation leaks.

After the tsunami, all of Japan's working reactors were gradually taken offline for maintenance or safety checks. The country had been without nuclear power for two months.

Officials say the situation at the Fukushima plant has stabilized, though it will take decades to safely decommission and the area around it remains off limits because it is a health hazard.

Despite rising public opposition to restarts because of the Fukushima crisis, government officials and the utility that runs the Ohi plant say the reactor has passed stringent safety checks. They argue its output is needed to ward off blackouts as Japan enters its high-demand summer months.

"We have finally taken this first step," said Hideki Toyomatsu, vice president of Kansai Electric Power Co., which operates the plant. "But it is just a first step."

The company is hoping to restart another reactor in Ohi soon. That could pave the way for other plants around the country. In the meantime, officials have called on the nation to conserve energy.

The resumption of operations in Ohi has been hotly contested in Japan, and coming ahead of the parliamentary commission's final report has raised questions over how seriously the government is trying to learn from the Fukushima crisis.

Large demonstrations against the restart have been held each week outside of the prime minister's office, reflecting deep grassroots opposition. Before the crisis, Japan got one-third of its electricity from nuclear plants.

Experts and activists have criticized Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda's government, saying it is putting business ahead of safety by going forward with the resumption before studying the findings and recommendations in the report.

The 10-member panel, appointed by parliament in December, has interviewed hundreds of plant workers, company and government officials, including then-Prime Minister Naoto Kan.

Committee chairman Kiyoshi Kurokawa said the report contains "proposals for the future" and urged the parliament to put them into action. The report was to be submitted later Thursday, and he did not give further details.

Other groups, including a private probe panel, have detailed a serious lack of communication between the government and the Fukushima plant's operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co.—or TEPCO—and a failure by both to provide the public with important information on radiation leaks.

Thursday's report was likely to echo that claim.

An interim report by the parliamentary commission blamed Kan for trying to micromanage Fukushima's response, which it said made matters worse. It also highlighted a flawed chain of command and lax preparations as factors that worsened the crisis.

The panel has called for a binding guideline for nuclear operators to upgrade safety and crisis plans without taking into consideration their cost efficiency. It is also looking into the role the earthquake itself played in the reactor damage, a key question that has remained unanswered or largely denied in previous reports.

TEPCO, which has already released the results of its own internal investigation, said it found no evidence of major damage from the earthquake. It claims the unanticipated size of the tsunami was the primary cause, but acknowledges its tsunami plans were too optimistic and initial communications were problematic.

ASIA BRIEFS

Myanmar parliament reconvenes, but without Suu Kyi

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's parliament reconvened Wednesday for what is expected to be an important session, but its best-known member, opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, was absent because she was busy with other work. Suu Kyi recently returned from a two-week, high-profile trip to Europe, where she was feted as a heroine of democracy. The Nobel laureate had explained at a news conference Tuesday that she would not make it to the opening of the legislative session in the capital, Naypyitaw. "I am taking leave for three days as I have quite a lot of work that I have to finish here in Rangoon before going there," she said. Rangoon is the former name for Yangon, the country's biggest city, where Suu Kyi resides.

Philippine official dismissed after Facebook photo

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine official has been dismissed after Facebook photos showed him attending a high school reunion at an island resort when he was supposed to be at work. Nueva Ecija provincial information officer Maynardo Valdez was accused of gross misconduct and dishonesty. Philippine Information Agency chief Jose Fabia said Wednesday that Valdez closed his office for four days last year without permission and did not respond to calls and texts from his superiors. Fabia said officials tried contacting Valdez through his Facebook account and instead saw pictures of him at the reunion on Boracay Island.

India: Pakistan needs to arrest Mumbai attackers

NEW DELHI (AP)—India is calling on Pakistan to prosecute the architects of the 2008 attack on the financial capital of Mumbai as a major step toward confidence building in their renewed peace efforts. The foreign secretaries of the two countries told reporters Thursday after meeting the day before that the two nuclear-armed neighbors were committed to working toward resolving their six-decade-old conflict. Indian Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai said he told his Pakistani counterpart that terror was the biggest threat to regional peace and urged him to bring those behind the Mumbai siege to justice.

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Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,	**Civil Action No. 12-0010**
vs.	**AMENDED SUMMONS**
REX I. PALACIOS, Defendant.	

AMENDED SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: REX I. PALACIOS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT within twenty (20) days after service of this AMENDED SUMMONS upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this AMENDED SUMMONS, judgment by default by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

SO ORDERED on this 20th day of June, 2012.

/s/CLERK OF COURT

F. MATTHEW SMITH
LAW OFFICE OF F. MATTHEW SMITH, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building,
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455 / 234- 7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff,.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff,	**Civil Action No. 11-0178**
-vs-	**SUMMONS**
JOAQUIN H. BORJA and SOOK M. BORJA, Defendant(s).	

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:
SOOK M. BORJA

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC, attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is Post Office Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustistia Complex, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 20th day of July 2011.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Commonwealth Superior Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

UNION BANK, Plaintiff,	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 94-520**
-v-	**NOTICE OF SALE**
GUADALUPE P. MANGLONA, Defendant.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a First Amended Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on August 7, 1997, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lots 330, 347, and the northern portion of 349, situated in San Jose Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, together containing an area of 3.16 hectares, as shown on Sketch No. 41 of Asia Mapping, Inc.; and Lot H-3-1, As Falipe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 5,500 square meters, more or less.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 27, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 26th day of June, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for Terminal Improvements, Phase I at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950,

All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Tinian International Airport, Terminal Improvements, Phase I, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 and must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM on FRIDAY, July 13, 2012** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, demolition, building and site improvements, including concrete foundations, concrete slab-on-grade, cast-in-place concrete, roof membrane, metal roofing, thermal insulation, concrete masonry unit walls, non-structural metal framing, carpentry, gypsum board, ceramic tiles, resilient flooring, acoustical ceilings, aluminum doors and frames, aluminum windows, glazing, cabinetry, toilet partitions, toilet accessories, painting, ventilation, air conditioning, plumbing, electrical lighting and power, complete and ready for use all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from CNMI Capital Improvement Program. The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

The Contract period for construction of the Project in its entirety shall be One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days. Liquidated damages in the amount of Three Hundred Dollars ($300.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible", their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the Project shall be paid not less than the minimum wage rate established by CNMI Law or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract. A copy of the CNMI Minimum Wage Rate Determination is included in the General Provisions, Section 70-25.

Each Bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the Bid Proposal documents, with submission of their Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, upon payment of TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS ($200.00) for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is non-refundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal Money Order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at CPA, Conference Room, Tinian International Airport, at **10:00 am, FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2012**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. All prospective Bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Bid Proposals shall be submitted on the Bid Schedule form included on the CD-Rom obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding Bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the Bid Schedule or misentry of the quantity of line items; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the Project Contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said Bids if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each Bidder must supply all information required by the Bid Proposal documents and Specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the Specifications. Bid Proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority office.

A Contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the Specifications. To be eligible for award, each Bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit Bids in response to this Invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in consideration for an award of any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by either a Bid Bond issued by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a Certified Check, or a Cashier's Check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the Bid Price. Checks shall be made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman / Contracting Officer

Date: June 11, 2012

World

New tests revive debate over Arafat death

JERUSALEM (AP)—The discovery of traces of a radioactive agent on clothing reportedly worn by Yasser Arafat in his final days reignited a cauldron of conspiracy theories Wednesday about the mysterious death of the longtime Palestinian leader.

Arafat's widow, who ordered the tests by a Swiss lab, called for her husband's body to be exhumed, and Arafat's successor gave tentative approval for an autopsy. But experts warned that even after the detection of polonium-210, getting answers on the cause of death will be tough.

Arafat was 75 when he died Nov. 11, 2004, in a French military hospital. He had been airlifted to the facility just weeks earlier with a mysterious illness, after being confined by Israel for three years to his West Bank headquarters.

At the time, French doctors said Arafat died of a massive stroke. According to French medical records, he had suffered inflammation, jaundice and a blood condition known as disseminated intravascular coagulation, or DIC.

But the records were inconclusive about what brought about the DIC, which has numerous causes including infections, colitis and liver disease. Outside experts who reviewed the records on behalf of The Associated Press were also unable to pinpoint the underlying cause.

The uncertainty sparked speculation about the cause of death, including the possibility of AIDS or poisoning. Many in the Arab world believe he was killed by Israel, which held him responsible for the bloody Palestinian uprising of the early 2000s. Israeli officials have repeatedly denied foul play, and they dismissed the latest theories as nonsense.

That debate was reignited after a Swiss lab said Wednesday it had discovered traces of polonium-210 in clothing and other belongings provided by Arafat's wife, Suha. She told the lab that Arafat had used the items in his final days. The development was first reported by the Al-Jazeera satellite channel.

In an interview Wednesday in Doha, Qatar, Mrs. Arafat said she was pleased to be getting closer to determining the cause of her husband's death.

"I was shocked first, of course, because it's a very dangerous poison that ... they discovered," she told APTN. "But I was relieved that we are on the steps of knowing the truth."

AP

In this May 31, 2002 file photo photo Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat pauses during the weekly Muslim Friday prayers in his headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Iraqis face long future of fear as attacks mount

BAGHDAD (AP)—Whenever he leaves his home, Mohammed Jabar, a Sunni Muslim, carries his cellphone so his family can find out quickly whether he is safe if a deadly bomb attack hits. Shukria Mahmud, another Sunni, rarely ventures from her house because of the rash of violence that is gripping Iraq.

Laith Hashim, a young Shiite Muslim, is considering moving away from Iraq if security continues to disintegrate. Such a breakdown, he fears, would spark a new round of bitter sectarian fighting of the kind that brought the nation to the brink of civil war just a few years ago.

Tensions simmer between Iraq's Sunni and Shiite communities, yet they share an increasingly widespread despair. Al-Qaida-style attacks are on the rise, faith in the government's ability to keep people safe is on the wane and a fatalistic acceptance of a life of fear is perniciously settling in.

Nine years after the U.S. led an invasion of Iraq that overthrew dictator Saddam Hussein—purging the leadership and military of his supporters and leading to a fight against insurgents in a bloody guerrilla war that left more than 100,000 dead—Iraq's outlook is increasingly bleak in summer 2012.

Instead of a Western-style democracy functioning in peace and cooperation, what's been left behind is dysfunctional and increasingly violent. Many of the attacks of the past month have targeted Shiites on annual religious pilgrimages, raising fears of a return to the deadly cycle of destructive violence between Sunni and Shiite communities.

"The Sunnis should be warned that there will be retaliation if the attacks against Shiites continue," Hashim, 18, said Wednesday in Baghdad's Sadr City neighborhood.

Iran threatens swift retaliation on US bases

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran declared Wednesday that it can destroy nearby U.S. military bases and strike Israel within minutes of an attack on the Islamic Republic, reflecting tensions over Iran's suspect nuclear program.

The veiled threat came during a military drill that has included the firing of ballistic missiles. The elite Revolutionary Guards, conducting the war games in Iran's central desert, said that the missiles were aimed at mock-ups of foreign military bases.

Israel and the U.S. have hinted at the possibility of military strikes against Iran if sanctions and diplomacy do not rein in Iran's nuclear development program. The West suspects Iran may be aiming to build nuclear weapons. Iran insists its program is for peaceful purposes.

The semiofficial Fars news agency quoted Gen. Ami Ali Hajizadeh of the Revolutionary Guards as saying U.S. bases are in range of Iran's missiles and could be hit in retaliatory strikes. He referred to Israel as "occupied territories."

"Measures have been taken so that we could destroy all these bases in the early minutes of an attack," said Hajizadeh, chief of the Guards' air-space division.

Israeli officials refused to comment. There was no immediate comment from Washington.

Hajizadeh said the Guards also successfully test fired an anti-ship missile that could sink U.S. warships in the Gulf. Gen. Hajizadeh told state TV that the shore-to-sea ballistic missile, called "Persian Gulf," has a range of 300 kilometers (180 miles).

State TV showed video of the launching of a white missile that hit a huge target in Gulf waters.

The U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet is based in Bahrain, an island in the Gulf about 200 kilometers (120 miles) from Iran, well within range of Iranian missiles.

On Tuesday Iran said it launched a variety of missiles during the desert drill, including Shahab-3 missiles with a range of 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) that could reach Israel and southern Europe.

Message of Appreciation

†Crispin Matagolai Kaipat

Cris's passing left an empty void in our lives. Mere words cannot adequately express our most sincere gratitude, Dear Friends and Families from near and afar, for all your loving words of comfort, prayers, assistance and generous contributions.

Our Sincere and Special Thanks to the following:

US Naval Hospital (Guam) Emergency and Intensive Care Unit Staffs; Dr. Aurelio Espinola (GMH); CNMI/Guam Liaison Office; Naval Station Navy Exchange Staffs & Families; Father Tom McGrath, USNH Chaplain; San Augustin Funeral Home and Staffs; US Army Captain Francisco Vargas and 368th MP CO Detachment 4-Customs; Guam Chief Justice F. Philip Carbullido & Staffs; CNMI Supreme Court Acting Chief Justice Alex C. Castro & Staffs; CNMI Department of Public Safety; CNMI Fire Department; Commonwealth Port's Authority; Department of Public Works; Saipan Mayor's Office; Office of the Governor & Staffs; Members of the 17th CNMI Legislature, House of Representatives & Staffs; Borja's Funeral Home & Staffs; Design Floral; Father Ken Hezel, St. Jude Parish Council; St. Jude Choir; Olomwaay Choir; Techa Mrs. Ghaling T. Saures; Friends and Families.

You all have been our source of strength and comfort during this difficult time and we couldn't have gotten through this painful time without you. We love you all.

Olomwaay, Si Yu'us Ma'ase & Thank You.

Maggie, Shawn, Tati & the Family

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

City official consults Ouija board before vote

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A San Francisco supervisor says he consulted a Ouija board before city leaders voted on whether to recommend naming a Navy ship after slain gay rights activist Harvey Milk. Supervisor John Avalos tells the *San Francisco Chronicle* that he believes he made contact with Milk's spirit and that Milk spelled out letters indicating: "Good riddance to don't ask, don't tell." The Board of Supervisors approved the non-binding resolution Tuesday on a 9-2 vote. Milk was a city supervisor and former naval officer. He was fatally shot in 1978 by Dan White.

RI man hits $180K jackpot 1 day after son wins $1K

CRANSTON, R.I. (AP)—Perhaps there's luck in their genes. A man from East Providence has claimed more than $180,000 in lottery winnings, a day after his son won $1,000 in a different game. Rhode Island Lottery officials say the man on Monday claimed the $180,599 jackpot from the Wild Money game's Saturday night drawing. He was accompanied to lottery headquarters in Cranston by his wife and son, who had just won $1,000 of his own on an instant ticket on Friday. Lottery officials didn't release the winner's name. The winner says he wants to take his wife of 35 years on a vacation, but he's not sure how else he'll spend the money. He bought the ticket at an East Providence convenience store.

Police: Pa. inmate tried to hail cab from hospital

BEAVER, Pa. (AP)—Sheriff's deputies say a western Pennsylvania county jail inmate wearing an orange-and-white striped uniform tried to hail a taxi to escape from a hospital where he was taken for medical treatment. The Beaver County Times reports Tuesday that 23-year-old Holden Wooley was taken to Heritage Valley Beaver Hospital on Saturday night after a reported seizure. Deputies say at one point during his four-hour hospital visit, Wooley went outside to hail a cab—but the driver refused to pick him up. When hospital security officers tried to grab him, Wooley ran into the woods. Police say he was arrested a couple hours later when officers used a dog and a stun gun to subdue him. He was treated for a dog bite at the hospital and returned to jail. Online court records don't list an attorney for Wooley.

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

We the family of the late

†Leocardio Camacho Mafnas

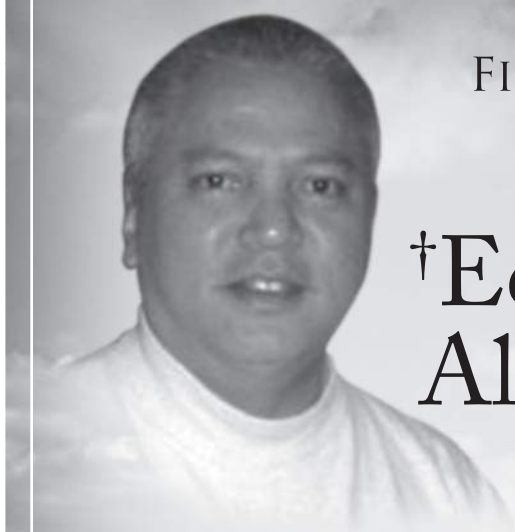
Wish to extend our deepest and warmest appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed us during our greatest and most painful time of sorrow. Your thoughtful prayers, comfort, and unending support and other considerate acts of grace did much to calm the ache in our hearts and may time lessen our pain as memories gently turn tears to smiles. We acknowledge and cherish the time you devoted to us, your kindness has touched us all and we will forever remember you. May God bless us all.

Masen magof ham in ekstende un sinceru yan dangkulu na si Yu'us Ma'ase I familia yan manatungo siha pot I tinayuyot yan finatton-miyu diurante I pinitenmami. Todu I tiempo bai en hahasso hamyo gi tinayuyot-mami ni familian I dinfunto as

†Leocardio Camacho Mafnas
December 09, 1928 – June 24, 2012

Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Maraming Salamat Po, Gilisou, Kmal Mesulang.

Ginen I Famaguon Yan Todos I Familia



Fifth Year Death Anniversary

In loving memory of

†Edwin Frank Aldan Castro

Five years ago, our beloved son, husband, father, grandfather and brother in remembrance of his passing away, we the family invite our relatives and friends to join us as we begin the traditional nine days of daily masses beginning July 2nd, 2012 through July 9th, 2012 at 6:00 pm followed by the Holy Rosary at the Santa Soledad Church in Kagman. On Sunday, July 8, 2012, mass will be offered at 9:00 am. Holy Rosary will be said at 7:00 pm.

On the final day, Tuesday, July 10, 2012, Holy Rosary will be said at 5:00 pm followed by Mass at 6:00 pm. Dinner will be served immediately after mass at the Family residence in Kagman I.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence will forever be appreciated.

Thank You and May God Bless Us All.

Susan Santos Castro
Julie Jane, Manuela, Solomon, Francisco, and Virgina
Frank C. and Julie A. Castro and Family

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Maria Borja Minatoya

Better Known as "Maco Koichi" • November 14, 1947 – July 3, 2012

Was called home by our heavenly Father

Predeceased by:
Parents: *Jose Quitugua Borja & Francisca Atalig Borja*
Husband: *Toshio Minatoya*
Sister & Brother, In Law: *Teresita Borja Jordan, Pedro C. DelaCruz, Crispin A. Borja*

Lovingly Survived By:

Children & Their Family:
Anthony I. Macaranas (Tanya, Josh, Thad, Lymmia)
Claudia M. &Francisco P. Sablan(Jessica, Vanessa, George)
Carla Quitugua Atalig (Maile)
William B& Jolene Bartlett (Keoni, Toshi)

Brother, Sisters & In Laws:
Delgadina B. DelaCruz &Children
Ana B. Castro & Children
Elphidia (Piding) B. Camacho & Children
Cynthia (Oching) A. Borja
Thomas A. Fujihira (Susan)

Care taker: *Melva Mendoza*

She is also survived by numerous: *Cousins, Godchildren, nieces, nephews, & friends*

DAILY MASS IS BEING OFFERED AT 6:00 PM AT SAN ANTONIO CHURCH
Sunday at 7:30am

LAST RESPECTS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2012, THE BODY WILL LEAVE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER AT 7:00 AM TO SAN ANTONIO CHURCH. MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL WILL BE AT 10:00 AM. THE BODY WILL TAKEN TO VETERAN CEMENTARY RIGHT AFTER MASS

Science & Technology

Eureka! Physicists celebrate evidence of particle

GENEVA (AP)—Scientists at the world's biggest atom smasher hailed the discovery of "the missing cornerstone of physics" Wednesday, cheering the apparent end of a decades-long quest for a new subatomic particle called the Higgs boson, or "God particle," which could help explain why all matter has mass and crack open a new realm of subatomic science.

First proposed as a theory in the 1960s, the maddeningly elusive Higgs had been hunted by at least two generations of physicists who believed it would help shape our understanding of how the universe began and how its most elemental pieces fit together.

As the highly technical findings were announced by two independent teams involving more than 5,000 researchers, the usually sedate corridors of the European Center for Nuclear Research, or CERN, erupted in frequent applause and standing ovations. Physicists who spent their careers in pursuit of the particle shed tears.

The new particle appears to share many of the same qualities as the one predicted by Scottish physicist Peter Higgs and others and is perhaps the biggest accomplishment at CERN since its founding in 1954 outside Geneva along the Swiss-French border.

Rolf Heuer, director of CERN, said the newly discovered particle is a boson, but he stopped just shy of claiming outright that it is the Higgs boson itself—an extremely fine distinction.

"As a layman, I think we did it," he told the elated crowd. "We have observed a new particle that is consistent with a Higgs boson."

AP

Fabiola Gianotti, ATLAS experiment spokesperson, left, and Joe Incandela, CMS team leader, look at a screen during a scientific seminar to deliver the latest update in the search for the Higgs boson at the European Organization for Nuclear Research in Meyrin near Geneva, Switzerland, Wednesday, July 4, 2012.

The Higgs, which until now had been purely theoretical, is regarded as key to understanding why matter has mass, which combines with gravity to give all objects weight.

The idea is much like gravity and Isaac Newton's early theories. Gravity was there all the time before Newton explained it. The Higgs boson was believed to be there, too. And now that scientists have actually seen something much like it, they can put that knowledge to further use.

The center's atom smasher, the $10 billion Large Hadron Collider, sends protons whizzing around a circular 27-kilometer (17-mile) underground tunnel at nearly the speed of light to create high-energy collisions. The aftermath of those impacts can offer clues about dark matter, antimatter and the creation of the universe, which many theorize occurred in a massive explosion known as the Big Bang.

Most of the particles that result from the collisions exist for only the smallest fractions of a second. But finding a Higgs-like boson was one of the biggest challenges in physics: Out of some 500 trillion collisions, just several dozen produced "events" with significant data, said Joe Incandela of the University of California at Santa Barbara, leader of the team known as CMS, with 2,100 scientists.

Each of the teams confirmed Wednesday that they had "observed" a new subatomic particle—a boson. Heuer said the discovery was "most probably a Higgs boson, but we have to find out what kind of Higgs boson it is." He referred to the discovery as a missing cornerstone of science.

As the leaders of the two teams presented their evidence, applause punctuated their talks.

"Thanks, nature!" joked Fabiola Gianotti, the Italian physicist who heads the team called ATLAS, with 3,000 scientists, drawing laughter from the crowd.

Later, she told reporters that the standard model of physics is still incomplete because "the dream is to find an ultimate theory that explains everything. We are far from that."

Incandela said it was too soon to say definitively whether the particle was exactly the same as envisioned by Higgs and others, who proposed the existence of an energy field where all particles interact with a key particle, the Higgs boson.

Higgs, who was invited to be in the audience, said Wednesday's discovery appears to be close to what he predicted.

"It is an incredible thing that it has happened in my lifetime," he said, calling the discovery a huge achievement for the proton-smashing collider.

Outside CERN, the announcement seemed to ricochet around the world with some of the speed and energy of the particle itself.

In an interview with the BBC, the world's most famous physicist, Stephen Hawking, said Higgs deserved the Nobel Prize. Hawking said he had placed a wager with another scientist that the Higgs boson would never be found.

"It seems I have just lost $100," he said.

Marc Sher, a professor of physics at William & Mary College, said most observers concluded in December that the Higgs boson would soon be discovered, but he was "still somewhat stunned by the results."

The phrase "God particle" was coined by Nobel Prize-winning physicist Leon Lederman, but it's used mostly by laymen as an easier way of explaining the theory.

Wednesday's celebration was mainly for researchers who explore the deepest, most esoteric levels of particle science. But the particle-hunting effort has paid off in other ways for non-scientists, including contributing to the development of the World Wide Web.

CERN scientists used the early Web to exchange information, and the vast computing power needed to crunch all of the data produced by the atom smasher also boosted development of cloud computing, which is now making its way into mainstream services.

Advances in solar energy, medical imaging and proton therapy used in the fight against cancer have also resulted from the work of particle physicists at CERN and elsewhere.

The last undiscovered piece of the standard model of physics could be a variant of the Higgs that was predicted or something else that entirely changes the way scientists think about how matter is formed, Incandela said.

"This boson is a very profound thing we have found," he said. "We're reaching into the fabric of the universe in a way we never have done before. We've kind of completed one particle's story. ... Now we're way out on the edge of exploration."

The discovery is so fundamental to the laws of nature, Incandela said, that it could spawn a new era of technology and development in the same way that Newton's laws of gravity led to basic equations of mechanics that made the industrial revolution possible.

A closer look at the Higgs boson

BERLIN (AP)—Scientists working at the world's biggest atom smasher near Geneva have announced the discovery of a new subatomic particle that looks remarkably like the long-sought Higgs boson. Sometimes called the "God particle" because its existence is fundamental to the creation of the universe, the hunt for the Higgs involved thousands of scientists from all over the world.

WHAT IS THE GOD PARTICLE ANYWAY?

School physics teaches that everything is made up of atoms, and inside atoms are electrons, protons and neutrons. They, in turn, are made of quarks and other subatomic particles. Scientists have long puzzled over how these minute building blocks of the universe acquire mass. Without mass, particles wouldn't hold together and there would be no matter.

One theory proposed by British physicist Peter Higgs and teams in Belgium and the United States in the 1960s is that a new particle must be creating a "sticky" field that acts as a drag on other particles. The atom-smashing experiments at CERN, the European Center for Nuclear Research, have now captured a glimpse of what appears to be just such a Higgs-like particle.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The Higgs is part of many theoretical equations underpinning scientists' understanding of how the world came into being. If it doesn't exist, then those theories would need to be fundamentally overhauled. The fact that it apparently does exist means scientists have been on the right track with their theories. But there's a twist: the measurements seem to diverge slightly from what would be expected under the so-called Standard Model of particle physics. This is exciting for scientists because it opens the possibility to potential new discoveries including a theory known as "supersymmetry" where particles don't just come in pairs—think matter and anti-matter—but quadruplets, all with slightly different characteristics.

HOW MUCH DID IT COST?

CERN's atom smasher, the Large Hadron Collider, alone cost some $10 billion to build and run. This includes the salaries of thousands of scientists and support staff around the world who collaborated on the two experiments that independently pursued the Higgs.

WERE THERE ANY PRACTICAL RESULTS FROM THE SEARCH?

Not directly. But the massive scientific effort that led up to the discovery has paid off in other ways, one of which was the creation of the World Wide Web. CERN scientists developed it to make it easier to exchange information among each other. The vast computing power needed to crunch all of the data produced by the atom smasher has also boosted the development of distributed—or cloud—computing, which is now making its way into mainstream services. Advances in solar energy capture, medical imaging and proton therapy—used in the fight against cancer—have also resulted from the work of particle physicists at CERN and elsewhere.

WHAT'S NEXT

"This is just the beginning," says James Gillies, a spokesman for CERN. Scientists will keep probing the new particle until they fully understand how it works. In doing so they hope to understand the 96 percent of the universe that remains hidden from view. This may result in the discovery of new particles and even hitherto unknown forces of nature.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Vice President

Graduate of a 4-year degree course and with a minimum of 8 years of professional progressive management experience and at least 4 years of general management experience in property management, tourism and/or hotel management. Knowledge of lease negotiations plus financial and quality management is required. Must have a solid track record in accomplishing business objectives.

Administrative Assistant

High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. Must be proficient in various Microsoft software applications. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good people and interpersonal skills at work. Should be able to work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. For applications to be considered, they should be sent to **hrd_l&t@tanholdings.com** not later than July 13, 2012.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Life & Style

Miss. hometown marks half century post-Faulkner

OXFORD, Miss. (AP)—Five decades after his death, William Faulkner still draws literary pilgrims to his Mississippi hometown, the "little postage stamp of native soil" he made famous through his novels.

Oxford inspired the fictional town of Jefferson that was a frequent setting for his stories, and it's commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Nobel laureate's death Friday with several events that include a tag-team reading of his novel, "The Reivers," beginning about daybreak.

Roughly 25,000 people a year visit Faulkner's antebellum home, Rowan Oak, which is now owned by the University of Mississippi. The author's meticulous handwriting appears on the walls of his downstairs office. Using pencil, he outlined events of his 1954 novel, "A Fable."

William Griffith, the Rowan Oak curator since 1999, said writing was a "demon-driven" task for Faulkner.

"You're going to hear about the agony and the sweat and the difficulty and the compulsion," Griffith said. "You're not going to hear anything about how great it was, how relaxing and beautiful it was. None of that. He just did what he had to do to get it done."

Oxford's lure is similar to that of Key West, Fla., for fans of Ernest Hemingway and Salinas, Calif., for devotees of John Steinbeck.

"I've just always wanted to see this," Lisa McDanels of Rocky River, Ohio, said as she and her husband toured Faulkner's home. "You think, `Oh, he walked here.'"

The two-story Greek Revival home was built in 1848, and Faulkner bought it in 1930. It sits a mile from the town square, but feels isolated because it's encircled by woods—oaks, magnolias, cedars, dogwoods and honeysuckle. Griffith said the home retains its character, with one important addition—climate control.

Faulkner added central heating in the 1930s but scorned air conditioning, despite summer temperatures that reach the 90s and stifling humidity. In "The Reivers," a character groused, "there are no seasons at all any more, with interiors artificially contrived at sixty degrees in summer and ninety degrees in winter, so that mossbacked recidivists like me must go outside in summer to escape cold and in winter to escape heat."

The day after Faulkner died, his wife, Estelle, had a window-unit air conditioner installed in her upstairs bedroom.

Ole Miss bought Rowan Oak in 1972 from the Faulkners' daughter, Jill. The house was renovated from 2001 to 2003, and central air conditioning was added.

AP

In this June 8, 2012 photograph, Ryan Spilker, a student at the University of Mississippi, studies the late Nobel Prize laureate William Faulkner's handwriting on the walls of his downstairs office at his antebellum home, Rowan Oak, now a museum owned by the University of Mississippi, in Oxford, Miss.

Faulkner was known for sitting on the square to observe Oxford's small-town comings and goings. In 1997, to mark the 100th anniversary of his birth in nearby New Albany, Oxford dedicated a Faulkner statue in front of its own City Hall. Now, tourists snap photos by the life-sized bronze.

Faulkner and his wife are buried in St. Peter's Cemetery, north of the square, and fans pay tribute by pouring bourbon on the gravesite.

Donald Kartiganer, professor emeritus of English who held the Faulkner studies chair at Ole Miss, recalled taking Salman Rushdie on a private tour of Rowan Oak in 2006. When Rushdie saw Faulkner's writing table and typewriter, his voice fell into hushed reverence and he asked if he could sit there. Kartiganer said yes.

Singer Frank Ocean reveals first love was a man

NEW YORK (AP)—Both Anderson Cooper and Frank Ocean made revelations about their sexuality this week, but Ocean's could end up being the more significant announcement.

Ocean—the rising R&B singer behind the single "Novacane" and the self-released album "nostalgia, ULTRA," which critics heralded as among the best of 2011—announced on his Tumblr page Wednesday that his first love was a man. He also tweeted a link to the post.

Earlier this week, CNN's Cooper acknowledged that he was gay. But the admission from the 24-year-old Ocean—who is part of the hip-hop collective Odd Future and was prominently featured on Jay-Z and Kanye West's "Watch the Throne" album—is noteworthy because he inhabits the world of rap, where anti-gay sentiments have long been part of the regular vocabulary. Gay epithets are often used in lyrics—one of Lil Wayne's catch phrases is "no homo."

"I think it's definitely important and it really signifies that there is a changing of the face of hip-hop," said Chuck Creekmur, founder of the leading website allhiphop.com. He called Ocean's announcement "a sign of the times," noting Cooper's announcement and President Barack Obama's recent support of gay marriage.

Ocean wrote: "4 summers ago, I met somebody. I was 19. He was too. We spent that summer, and the summer after, together. Everyday almost. And on the days we were together, time would glide."

AP

In this Nov. 17, 2011 file photo, Frank Ocean arrives at the 16th annual GQ "Men of the Year" party in Los Angeles.

Ocean concludes the post: "I don't have any secrets I need to keep anymore. ... I feel like a free man. If I listen closely. I can hear the sky falling too."

While Creekmur stressed that Ocean's announcement did not hold the same weight as if a rapper had come out, he said it was significant that the hip-hop community's initial reaction was positive.

"I don't believe that Frank Ocean revealing his gay experience at the age of 19 will cause a bunch of rappers to come out of the closet. I don't think that we're there yet. I do think that we'll see a lot of support for him. ... I think that it's a process," he said. "Just a few years ago, if this had happened, it could have marked the end of his career. This could mark the beginning of his career."

Creekmur also noted that Odd Future is known for being progressive, despite the fact that its leader—Tyler, The Creator—has been fiercely criticized for his use of anti-gay lyrics in songs. GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, criticized Tyler last year and called him "irresponsible."

Tyler expressed support for his friend on Twitter, in typical crude fashion, saying that it was a difficult to acknowledge and that he was proud of him.

Ocean has a new album, "Channel Orange," coming out July 17. Creekmur said it was hard to determine what impact the announcement would have on its sales.

"I think to it could work to his benefit. I think he'll definitely get more sort of praise and acclaim, and it will probably help his sales," he said. "But I think a lot of men will have difficulty singing his songs knowing they may have been penned to another man."

Ocean said he had intended his post to be part of his album credits, but because there have been recent rumors about his sexuality, he decided to post it on his Tumblr page.

"My hope is that the babies born these days will inherit less of the (expletive) than we did," he wrote.

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Savages
Friday and Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
Sunday thru Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Taylor Kitsch, Salma Hayek
Crime • Rated R
Synopsis
A pair of West Coast weed dealers get tangled up in a Mexican cartel's drug business after they kidnap their friend in this Universal Pictures production. Oliver Stone directs from a script he wrote with Shane Salerno and Don Winslow, whose novel the film is based on.

Katy Perry: Part of Me
Friday and Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sunday thru Thursday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Katy Perry
Musical • Rated PG
Synopsis
Get to know the woman behind the pop icon as singer Katy Perry brings fans behind the scenes of her California Dreams Tour in this colorful, intimate musical documentary.

The Amazing Spider-Man
Friday and Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:55
Sunday thru Thursday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone
Action, Fantasy, Drama • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
"The Amazing Spider-Man" is the story of Peter Parker (Garfield), an outcast high schooler who was abandoned by his parents as a boy, leaving him to be raised by his Uncle Ben (Sheen) and Aunt May (Field). Like most teenagers, Peter is trying to figure out who he is and how he got to be the person he is today. Peter is also finding his way with his first high school crush, Gwen Stacy (Stone), and together, they struggle with love, commitment, and secrets. As Peter discovers a mysterious briefcase that belonged to his father, he begins a quest to understand his parents' disappearance—leading him directly to Oscorp and the lab of Dr. Curt Connors (Ifans), his father's former partner. As Spider-Man is set on a collision course with Connors' alter-ego.

Magic Mike
Friday and Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:45
Sunday thru Thursday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Channing Tatum, Alex Pettyfer
Comedy, Drama • Rated R

Ted
Friday and Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 10:05
Sunday thru Thursday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Comedy • Rated R

Brave
Friday and Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sunday thru Thursday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Kelly MacDonald, Emma Thompson
Children's/family • Rated PG

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted
Friday and Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
Sunday thru Thursday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer
Children's/family • Rated PG

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Two-timing husband is sent packing for the second time

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Albert," divorced me three years ago. Afterward, I found out he was with a 28-year-old woman he had met in a bar. After she took him for what little money he had, he came crawling back to me. Like a fool, I stupidly took him back because I still had feelings for him.

Last week, I caught Albert on the Internet inviting a 23-year-old woman to play bingo over the weekend. Then I discovered another email indicating he had actually met her.

I kicked him out, of course. Albert never supported me; I always paid my own way. We were together for 22 years, Abby, and now I wish I had every one of them back. Why do old men search for young women to run around with, and why do young women think all old men have money?

USED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR USED: Older men like young women because it helps them forget, for a little while, how old they really are. Also, young women tend to be more naive and less judgmental, assuming that gray temples are a sign of wisdom. They also assume that after decades in the workforce an older man has a sizable nest egg.

You are not the only woman who has listened to her heart and made the same mistake twice—or more. Consider yourself ahead of the game because you are not economically dependent on your husband. Take the lessons you have learned, move on and have a happy life. You deserve it. You'll be fine without this compulsive two-timer. Trust me!

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Whatever happened to telephone etiquette?

We are a busy family and receive many calls from business associates and acquaintances. Abby, they feel free to call at any time, for the most trivial reasons! I guess it's a reflection of our open-24-hours-a-day society, but I consider it very rude.

One man, with whom my husband is on a committee, called at 11:30 p.m. When I politely asked him please not to call after 9:30 p.m. in the future, he became indignant!

My daughter's soccer coach made practice-reminder calls at 6 a.m. When we didn't answer, she left a message on our voicemail, but called again at 6:30 and 6:45 "to be sure we got the message"! I was brought up with the 9-to-9 rule -- you shouldn't call anyone you don't know well before 9 a.m. or after 9 p.m.

Also, polite callers identify themselves upfront, as in, "Hi. This is Joe Smith. May I please speak to Jack?" People call for my husband from all over the country. When he's not in, they often demand to know when he'll be back, his work schedule, his travel schedule and his contact information without revealing who they are.

Abby, please remind these people that they are interrupting someone's life with a phone call, and a little courtesy would go a long way.

BUSY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR BUSY: I think you've done an excellent job of that yourself. Your complaints reflect a general, regrettable decline in good manners and common sense. It's one of the reasons some people turn off their phones at night, or screen their calls with caller ID and voicemail.

Callers should ALWAYS identify themselves. If they don't, before answering any questions, feel free to say, "May I ask who's calling?" Never reveal your husband's work schedule, travel schedule or contact information to anyone unless you know with whom you are speaking.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Spidey relaunches with Tuesday record of $35M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Amazing Spider-Man" has swung into action with $35 million domestically in its first day—a record for a film opening on Tuesday.

The new launch for the Marvel Comics superhero outdid the previous best Tuesday debut of $27.9 million for "Transformers," which also opened the day before the Fourth of July in 2007.

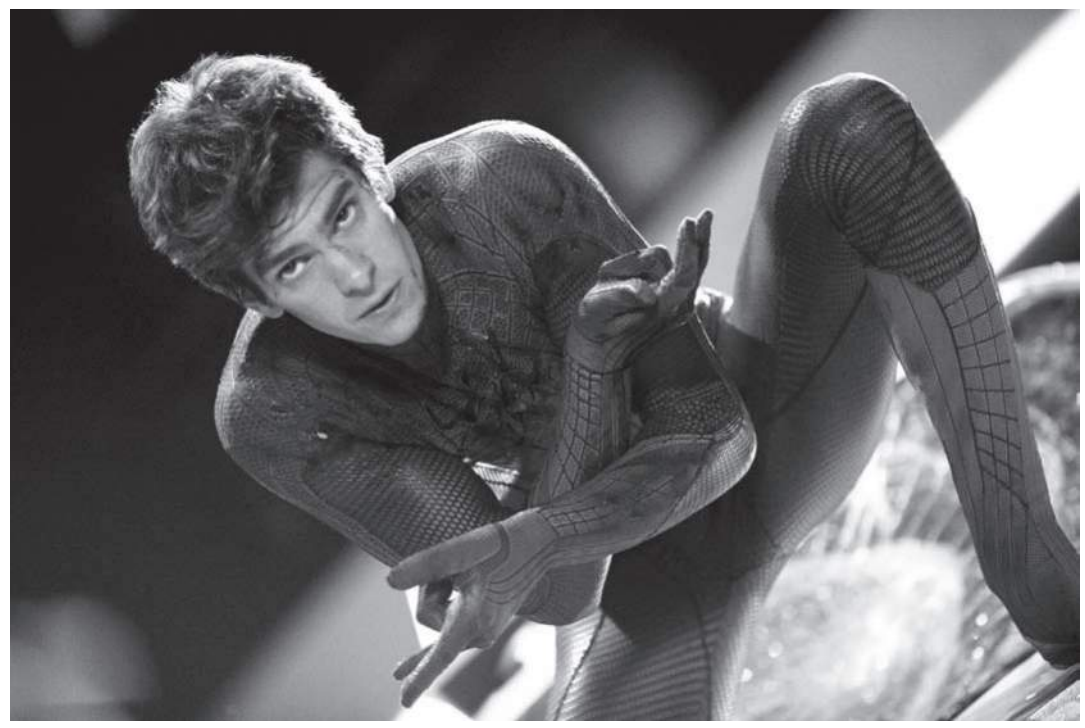
Box-office trackers had projected that "The Amazing Spider-Man" might earn around $120 million in its first six days, through the end of Fourth of July weekend. But its strong start indicates it could do considerably more.

The original "Transformers" went on to do $155.4 million domestically through Fourth of July weekend, which included receipts from Monday night previews before its official Tuesday debut.

"Transformers: Dark of the Moon" opened the week before the Fourth of July last year and pulled in $180.7 million in just over six days.

The opening-day results show the resilience of the Spider-Man brand, which set box-office records from 2002 to 2007 with the three films directed by Sam Raimi and starring Tobey Maguire as the web-slinging superhero.

After a falling out between Raimi and distributor Sony on a fourth film, the franchise started over, with Marc Webb directing and Andrew Garfield slipping into Spider-Man's red-and-blue suit.



AP

In this film image released by Sony Pictures, Andrew Garfield is shown in a scene from "The Amazing Spider-Man, set for release on July 3, 2012.

"The Amazing Spider-Man" retells the story of how a bite from a radioactive spider endows gangly teen Peter Parker with super strength, agility and senses. The film co-stars Emma Stone, Rhys Ifans, Martin Sheen and Sally Field.

Some critics had argued that it was too soon to reboot the franchise, just five years after Raimi and Maguire's "Spider-Man 3." But good reviews for "The Amazing Spider-Man" and a solid box-office start should put the carping to rest on the film, which also had a strong head-start overseas last week with about $50 million in a handful of international markets.

Debuting on a Tuesday, "The Amazing Spider-Man" is far down the list of best opening days, since most movies premiere on Friday as the weekend kicks off.

Last summer's "Harry Potter" finale had the best single-day start ever with $91.1 million. It's followed by last May's "The Avengers" with $80.8 million on its way to a record $207.4 million opening weekend.

"Spider-Man 3" opened on a Friday in May 2007, taking in $59.8 million on day one and $151.1 million for the weekend, which was a record at the time.

"The Amazing Spider-Man" is the middle chapter in Hollywood's superhero summer, which opened with Disney and Marvel's "The Avengers," whose worldwide receipts have climbed to $1.45 billion. On July 20, DC Comics and Warner Bros. debut "The Dark Knight Rises," the third and final Batman movie from director Christopher Nolan, starring Christian Bale as the masked vigilante.

AP

Britain's Prince William, right, and his wife Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, left, arrive ahead of a quarterfinals match between Roger Federer of Switzerland and Mikhail Youzhny of Russia at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, England, Wednesday July 4, 2012.

Royal Box: Prince William and Kate visit Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Wimbledon got a dose of royalty on Wednesday as Prince William and his wife, Kate, came to watch the men's quarterfinals on Centre Court.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were given a loud ovation as they took their seats in the Royal Box ahead of six-time champion Roger Federer's match against Mikhail Youzhny.

British hope Andy Murray was set to play David Ferrer of Spain in the second match on Centre Court.

The duchess wore a white cable-knit dress with dark trim.

Last week, Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, made his first visit to Wimbledon since 1970. Kate's sister Pippa Middleton has also been to the All England Club during this tournament.

William and Kate also watched Murray play at Wimbledon last year.

Reps confirm Claire Danes is pregnant

NEW YORK (AP)—Claire Danes has some busy months ahead: Not only is her hit TV series "Homeland" returning for its second season in September, but she's pregnant as well.

Danes' rep, Jodi Gottlieb, confirms the actress is expecting her first child with husband Hugh Dancy.

The news was first reported on People.com.

The 33-year-old Danes and 37-year-old Dancy met on the set of the film "Evening" and were married in 2009 in France.

The actress first became famous as a teenager on the television drama "My So Called Life," where she won a Golden Globe Award and was nominated for an Emmy. The show was canceled after its first season but developed a cult following.

AP

In this Jan. 13, 2012 file photo, actress Claire Danes arrives at the AFI Awards in Los Angeles.

Dancy will star in the upcoming NBC series "Hannibal," adapted from the novel "Red Dragon" by Thomas Harris.

Son of Monaco's Princess Caroline getting married

PARIS (AP)—Monaco's Princess Caroline says her son, Andrea Casiraghi, is getting married.

Caroline says in a statement issued Wednesday by the Monaco Palace that he will marry Tatiana Santo Domingo. French media reports say Santo Domingo is a Colombian heiress.

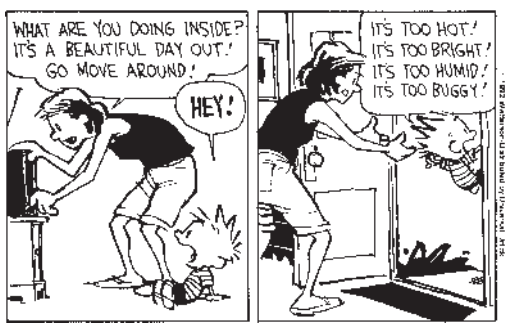
The statement does not provide any details about the wedding, including the bride's nationality or the planned date.

Andrea Casiraghi is the nephew of Monaco's ruling sovereign, Prince Albert II. Albert, the son of late American film star Grace Kelly, ended decades of bachelorhood last year when he married South African Olympic swimming champion Charlene Wittstock.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

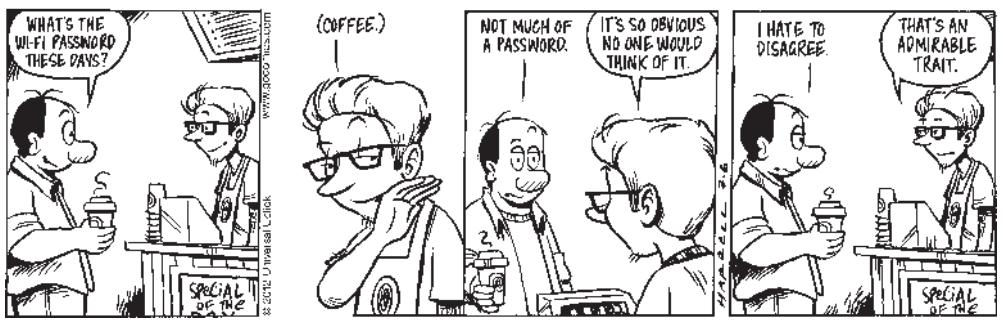

WHAT ARE YOU DOING INSIDE? IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY OUT! GO MOVE AROUND!
HEY!
IT'S TOO HOT! IT'S TOO BRIGHT! IT'S TOO HUMID! IT'S TOO BUGGY!
IT'S TOO REAL!
7-6

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

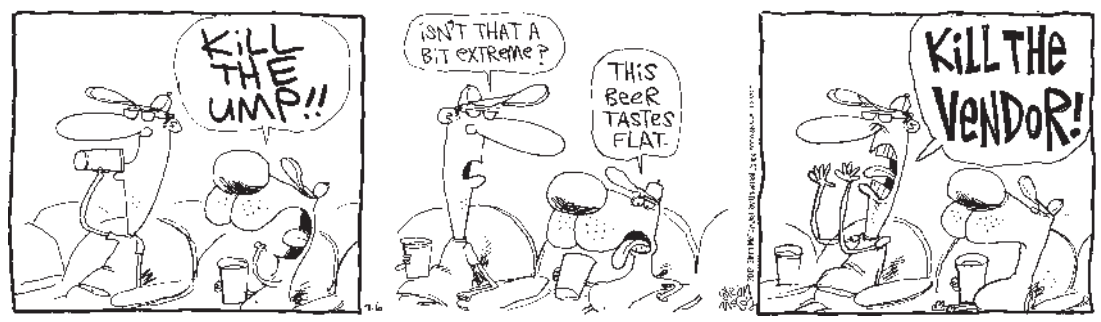
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S THE WI-FI PASSWORD THESE DAYS?
(COFFEE.)
NOT MUCH OF A PASSWORD.
IT'S SO OBVIOUS NO ONE WOULD THINK OF IT.
I HATE TO DISAGREE.
THAT'S AN ADMIRABLE TRAIT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

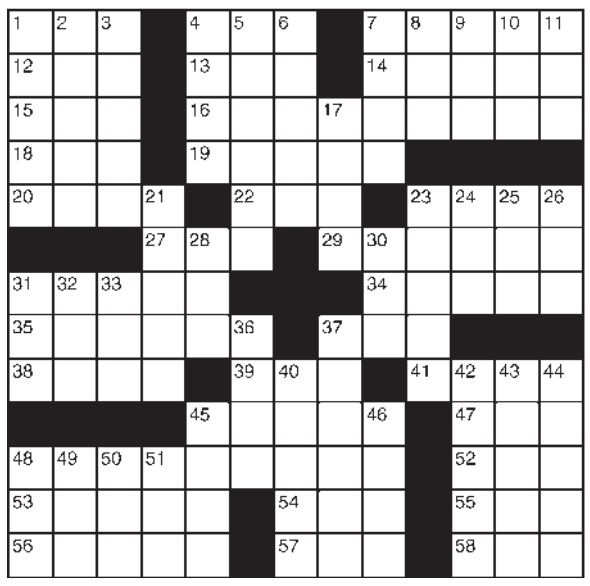
ACROSS
1 Sort
4 Wagerers' site (Abbr.)
7 PC shortcut
12 Army rank (Abbr.)
13 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
14 Garden invader
15 Chit
16 Data reader
18 Salamander
19 Teatime treat
20 Bronx cheer
22 Med. arrangement
23 Cried
27 Mainlander's memento
29 Affluence
31 Pitch
34 Soothe
35 Speechifies
37 Mel of baseball
38 Get a glimpse of
39 Crony
41 Pizzazz
45 IRS threat
47 Zero
48 Fielder's concern
52 In olden days
53 Scent
54 Lubricate
55 Each
56 Fact
57 "Erie Canal" mule
58 Stab

DOWN
1 Less friendly
2 Bath sponge
3 Inept sort
4 Bygone carmaker
5 Meditative exercises
6 Center of emotions
7 Created
8 Spring mo.
9 Greek X
10 "6 Rms — Vu"
11 Praise in verse
17 Recognize
21 Polish money
23 Viennese dance
24 90-degree angle
25 School grp.
26 Your
28 Ram's mate
30 Dine
31 Pirouette pivot
32 Storefront sign abbr.
33 Knock
36 Boot attachment
37 "Twelfth Night" countess
40 Farewell
42 Unsuitable
43 Niamey's nation
44 Magnificence
45 Leading man?
46 Snitch
48 Young fellow
49 Playwright Levin
50 "Kidding!"
51 Ostrich's cousin

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	L	P	■	W	A	D	S	■	N	O	P	E
S	E	A	■	A	L	I	I	■	I	B	E	X
H	A	I	R	L	E	S	S	■	N	O	N	E
■	■	N	I	L	■	C	A	R	E	E	N	S
F	O	L	D	E	R	■	L	A	V	■	■	■
E	R	E	■	T	U	B	■	F	E	T	I	D
T	E	S	T	■	G	A	P	■	H	I	D	E
A	S	S	A	M	■	H	I	S	■	M	E	N
■	■	■	L	A	C	■	C	H	E	E	S	Y
H	A	C	K	S	A	W	■	I	L	L	■	■
U	G	L	I	■	C	A	R	E	L	E	S	S
T	H	A	N	■	A	R	A	L	■	S	I	P
S	A	N	G	■	O	P	E	D	■	S	T	Y

Yesterday's answer 7-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Matthew O'Leary, 25; 50 Cent, 37; Sylvester Stallone, 66; Ned Beatty, 75.

Happy Birthday: Do whatever it takes to secure your home, family, assets and future. Interesting ideas coupled with luck will help you jump forward when others fall behind, if you are willing to act when an opportunity arises. A change of location, self-promotion or profession will lead to advancement. Your numbers are 5, 19, 21, 24, 32, 35, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Group activity will help you gain confidence and give you a chance to market your skills and present your ideas. People from your past can play a crucial role in helping you advance now. Romance will add spice to your life. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Too much of anything will lead to disaster. Don't give in to someone asking for too much. You have to protect what you have from someone looking for a handout. Offer suggestions and hands-on help, not your hard-earned cash. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You've got all the right moves. Take the initiative and make changes that will ensure you the position you want or results that will make you more marketable. Changes made now will bring greater options. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Stay focused, and don't get sidetracked by what someone else does or says. Keep your thoughts to yourself and refrain from upsetting any chance you have to reach a settlement or fix a pending problem. Think outside the box. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You have much to offer, and your enthusiasm will attract plenty of attention, but be careful—someone may take advantage of your vulnerability by offering you empty promises. Question everyone you deal with, both personally and professionally. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep a close watch on what everyone is doing. You need to work hard and stick to your plans, regardless of the temptations you come up against. Your biggest gain will come through your ability to finish what you start without complaint. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A passionate approach to whatever you do will bring greater popularity and the help that can put you ahead. Change is within reach, but you have to initiate what you want to see unfold. Don't wait; grab what you want, and keep moving. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Be creative with regard to your home and surroundings. You need a creative space if you are going to transform a good idea into a profitable venture. Don't let an emotional matter consume you. Follow your intuition and move forward quickly. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Take on a task that requires your talents and you will set yourself up for advancement. Alterations at home may seem daunting at first, but will be beneficial in time. A good relationship is apparent if you strive for equality. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Take a trip or attend an event that opens your mind to a new way of utilizing what you have to offer. There is money to be made, but you must first avoid impulsive decisions made without doing your due diligence. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Focus on improving your financial, emotional or physical situation. What you set up now will lead to a better lifestyle. Be open about the way you feel to find out where you stand with the people you love most. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Not everyone will have your best interests at heart. You have to carefully choose whom you do business with, or you may end up losing out financially. Deception or disillusionment is apparent when dealing with others. Ask direct questions. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are inventive, unpredictable and adventuresome. You are witty, versatile and loquacious.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3			2	5		
	1		4		3			
		4					8	
		6	5			7		
	3						6	
		7			8	3		
	5					1		
			9		7		3	
		2	6			9		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	1	8	3	9	2	4	7	6
7	9	3	6	4	5	8	1	2
4	6	2	7	1	8	5	9	3
1	5	4	9	3	6	7	2	8
9	8	7	2	5	1	6	3	4
3	2	6	4	8	7	1	5	9
2	4	1	5	6	9	3	8	7
8	3	9	1	7	4	2	6	5
6	7	5	8	2	3	9	4	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/05

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE BOND BETWEEN SISTERS **Solution: 10 letters**

U	S	S	E	R	I	M	D	A	R	G	U	E	C	W
L	N	I	C	E	S	C	H	I	L	D	H	O	O	D
A	S	D	S	T	E	R	C	E	S	O	S	R	U	C
N	Y	E	E	T	R	U	S	T	M	D	G	U	R	O
O	O	K	C	R	E	A	D	V	I	C	E	S	A	N
I	U	I	M	N	S	R	L	K	L	A	T	E	G	V
T	N	C	H	E	E	T	H	E	E	R	E	H	E	E
I	G	K	N	S	M	I	A	O	S	E	K	T	V	R
D	N	S	S	I	A	O	R	N	O	O	I	O	I	S
N	E	S	E	B	W	F	R	E	D	D	L	L	T	A
O	L	E	P	L	O	O	A	I	P	I	A	C	A	T
C	A	U	O	I	R	N	M	M	E	X	N	S	L	I
N	M	L	H	N	R	I	D	E	I	S	E	G	E	O
U	E	A	S	G	O	E	T	S	N	L	E	A	R	N
E	F	V	R	S	B	A	B	Y	L	O	Y	A	L	S

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Admire, Advice, Alike, Argue, Baby, Bonds, Borrow, Care, Childhood, Close, Clothes, Conversations, Courage, Experiences, Family, Fashion, Female, Grow, Hopes, Inspire, Kids, Learn, Loyal, Memories, Nice, Relative, Secrets, Sense, Siblings, Sidekick, Sisterhood, Smiles, Talk, Trust, Unconditional, Understanding, Values, Women, Young

Yesterday's Answer: Sharpen

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 23 is the "Present" Edition, featuring all Five U.S. puzzles from 4 June-June period. To order, send $6.95 each, U.S. funds only, per book to Universal Uclick, plus $3 postage for the first book and $1 postage for each additional book. Send to: UCLICK-DEPT.CTD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-5480. Order online at www.ucomics.com. Other 46 puzzles, 10 clues and the 20 x 20 puzzle

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Saipan Tribune

Nash goes to Lakers in sign-and-trade deal

PHOENIX (AP)—Steve Nash is going to the Los Angeles Lakers, a Pacific Division rival the two-time MVP point guard tried so hard to beat, with little success, in his eight seasons with the Phoenix Suns.

At Nash's request, the Lakers and Suns reached a sign-and-trade deal, with Los Angeles using the trade exception it got when it sent Lamar Odom to Dallas to facilitate the transaction.

The 38-year-old Nash, who spent the past eight seasons with the Suns, was a free agent but a sign-and-trade agreement was necessary for the Lakers to afford him. He agreed to a three-year, $27 million contract. In return, the Suns get four draft picks—first rounders in 2013 and 2015 and second rounders in 2013 and 2014.

Nash's agent Bill Duffy said the deal was finalized Wednesday about 6 p.m., PDT.

In a statement released by the agent, Nash said that after he and the Suns agreed to part ways, he reapproached them to ask to pursue a sign-and-trade deal with Los Angeles "because it is very important to me to stay near my children and family," who live in Phoenix.

"They were very apprehensive and didn't want to do it," Nash said. "Fortunately for me, they reconsidered. They saw that they were able to get assets for their team that will make them better, assets they would not have otherwise had and it made sense for them to do a deal that helps their team get better."

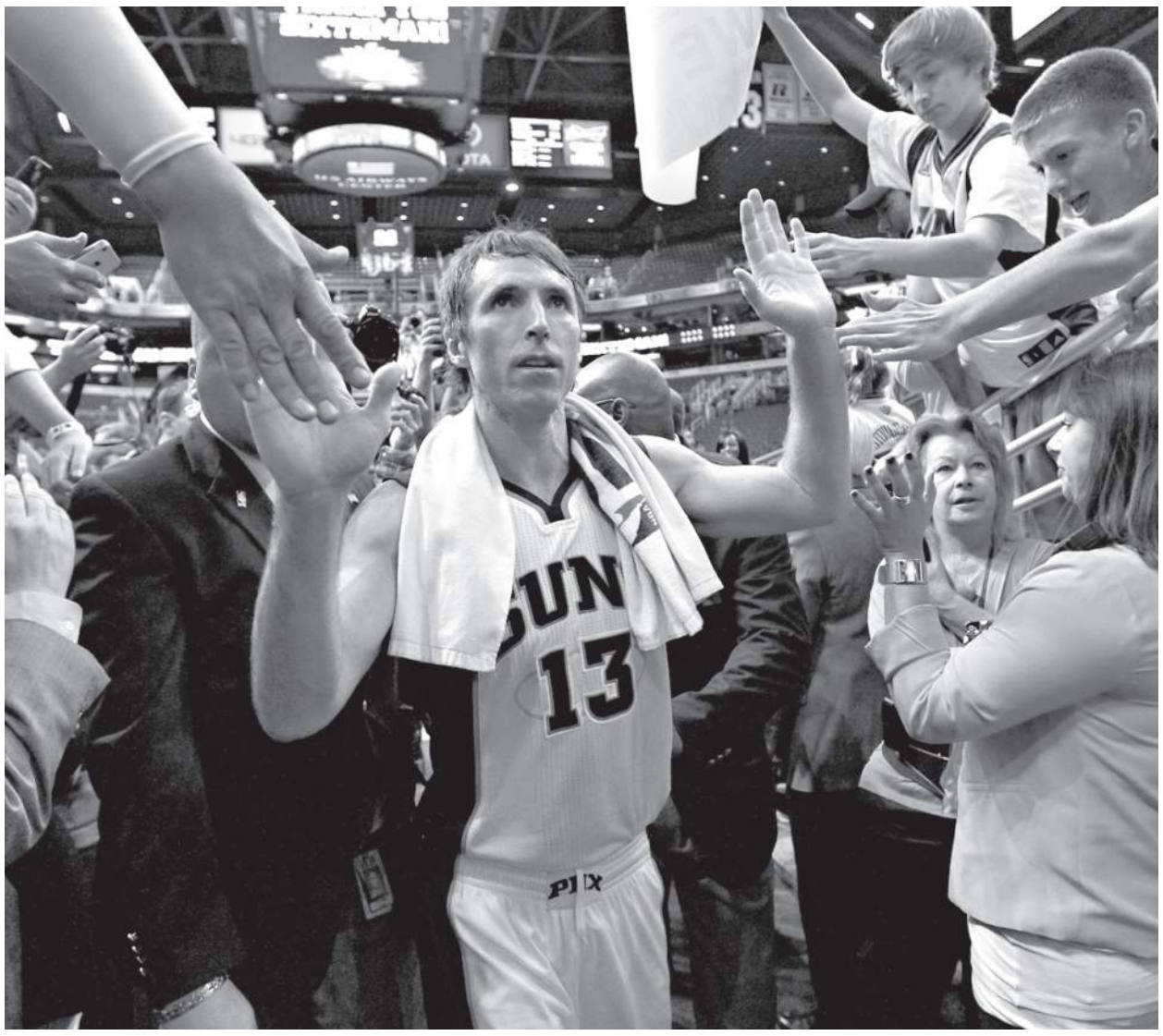
There had been sign-and-trade talks with New York and a lucrative free agent offer from Toronto.

The deal will put Nash on the floor with the team he tried so hard to unseat as a Western Conference power, teaming him with Kobe Bryant, Andrew Bynum and at least for now, Pau Gasol.

The Suns at least get something in the loss of their longtime leader and one of the city's most popular athletes, although no one to help immediately, unless some or all of the picks are used in future trades.

Nash's Phoenix teammate Jared Dudley tweeted that Nash "has not only been the best but the most unselfish player I ever played with. I only wish him the best. He deserves everything. Steve Nash has made many players millions. Only fitting to trade to a team that has a chance to win the ship and pay what he deserves."

Nash has never made it to the NBA Finals. He was last in the Western Conference finals against the Lakers in 2010, when the Suns lost in six games and Los Angeles went on to win the NBA title.



AP

In this April 25, 2012, file photo, Phoenix Suns' Steve Nash leaves the court after an NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs in Phoenix.

The sign-and-trade agreement first was reported by sports personality John Gambadoro of KTAR radio.

The Suns drafted Nash in 1998 but traded him to Dallas after two seasons because Phoenix already had Kevin Johnson and Jason Kidd at the position. Nash played six seasons for Dallas but bolted when owner Mark Cuban declined to spend big money to keep him. Then-Suns owner Jerry Colangelo brought a plane load of team players and officials to Dallas to woo Nash.

Nash thrived in Mike D'Antoni's run-and-gun system, earning MVP honors in 2005, when he averaged 15.5 points and 11.5 assists, and again in 2006, when he averaged a career-high 18.8 points and 10.5 assists. Nash averaged fewer than 10 assists only once, 9.7 in 2008-09, and topped 11 per game five times in his eight years with Phoenix.

Despite his age and the fact his team failed to make the playoffs for the second year in a row, Nash was second in the NBA in assists last season at 10.7 and averaged 12.7 points. His 53 percent shooting rate was a career high.

He is one of the most accurate free throw shooters in NBA history at 90.4 percent. His 9,916 assists rank him fifth in NBA history behind, in order, John Stockton, Kidd, Mark Jackson and Magic Johnson.

The Suns resisted trading Nash during his final season and insisted they were interested in bringing him back, but they never seriously were in the discussion. Toronto and New York dominated the talk until the Lakers came on with a flash on Tuesday.

Nash's arrival should rejuvenate the Lakers, who lost in the second round for the second straight postseason after their back-to-back championships in 2009 and 2010. The Lakers struggled to move from departed coach Phil Jackson's triangle offense to new coach Mike Brown's system during the lockout-shortened season, with four-time All-Star forward Gasol particularly failing to fit in while getting pushed to the third option on offense most nights.

Nash's peerless playmaking abilities and veteran presence could smooth over those problems, particularly after a full training camp to define the Lakers' roles in Brown's offense.

Los Angeles hasn't had an elite point guard alongside Bryant for several seasons, failing to address Derek Fisher's gradual decline while the rest of the West got better. The Lakers got sub-par play last season from the 37-year-old Fisher, who was traded to Houston at the deadline.

The five-time NBA champion was replaced in the starting lineup by journeyman Ramon Sessions, who provided speed and scoring but struggled badly in his first career playoff run, nearly disappearing from the Lakers' lineup. Sessions' decision last month to decline his player option for next season means his career with the Lakers is finished unless he's interested in returning as a backup, an unlikely prospect.

The draft picks probably don't mean too much to the Lakers, who have traded away their first-round picks the past three seasons. They haven't drafted a regular starter since 2005.

Double amputee Pistorius set to run at Olympics

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Never count out Oscar Pistorius.

The Blade Runner will be competing in the London Olympics after all, in his favorite event, the 400 meters.

While his selection for the 4x400 relay team was expected, it was a surprise last-minute turnaround by South African sports officials Wednesday that gave Pistorius the chance to run in the 400.

With the decision, the 25-year-old will become the first amputee track athlete to compete at any games.

"Today is truly one of the proudest days of my life," said Pistorius, a double amputee who spent his entire track career trying to prove he's good enough to compete with the best.

He now has the chance to do just that.

South Africa's Olympic committee and national track federation suddenly decided to clear Pistorius for the 400 at the London Games on his carbon fiber blades despite him just missing out on the country's strict qualifying criteria.

They added his name as the last on their team of 125 track and field athletes.

And now, the big Olympic stage being readied for Jamaican sprint sensation Usain Bolt and American swimmer Michael Phelps just got a little more crowded.

Not bad for a kid who had both his legs amputated below the knee at 11 months old and originally didn't like track and field when he took it up as a teenager to rehabilitate from a rugby injury.

"To have been selected to represent Team South Africa at the London 2012 Olympic Games in the individual 400m and the 4x400m relay is a real honor and I am so pleased that years of hard work, determination and sacrifice have all come together," said Pistorius.

Set to realize his dream of competing at an Olympics and Paralympics in the same year, his joy also was obvious in a post on Twitter.

"Will be in (at)London2012 for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games!" the multiple Paralympic champion tweeted. "Thank you to everyone that has made me the athlete I am! God, family and friends, my competitors and supporters! You have all had a hand!"

NBA BRIEFS

Source: Suns, Dragic reach 4-year deal

PHOENIX (AP)—A person with knowledge of the situation says the Phoenix Suns have reached agreement with free agent point guard Goran Dragic on a four-year, $30 million contract with the final year a player option. The person asked for anonymity because the deals can't be signed until next week. The agreement can rise to $34 million with incentives. The move capped an extremely busy night for Phoenix. Earlier, they agreed to a sign-and-trade deal to send Steve Nash to the Los Angeles Lakers and, according to a source close to the talks, reached agreement on a three-year, $18 million contract with free agent forward Michael Beasley. Dragic was Nash's backup in Phoenix before being traded to Houston.

Source: Gordon agrees to max deal with Suns

PHOENIX (AP)—Restricted free agent guard Eric Gordon has agreed to a four-year deal with the Phoenix Suns worth about $58 million, a person familiar with the talks told The Associated Press. The New Orleans Hornets have the right to match the deal and keep Gordon. Gordon was in Phoenix on Tuesday, meeting with the Suns' front office. The agreement to the offer sheet was confirmed by a person who spoke on condition of anonymity because free agent acquisitions can't be revealed publicly until next week, according to NBA rules. The agreement with Gordon first was reported Tuesday night by The Arizona Republic and ESPN. Gordon, given a huge welcome by Suns employees, told the Republic after his meeting with the Suns that "Phoenix is where my heart is now" and he hoped the Hornets would not match the offer. The Suns can sign Gordon to the offer sheet on July 11 and New Orleans would have three days to match.

Sources: Rockets to meet with Lin on Wednesday

NEW YORK (AP)—Jeremy Lin will visit the Houston Rockets on Wednesday, two people with knowledge of the plans said, and the New York Knicks restricted free agent is expected to get a contract offer. The Rockets waived Lin last December and he was claimed by the Knicks, turning into a breakout star when he landed the starting point guard job. Now with Goran Dragic not expected to return, Houston may want Lin back. One of the people told The Associated Press on Tuesday the Rockets are planning to make Lin a multiyear offer, though the Knicks can match it and have said they intend to keep him. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the negotiations were to remain private. The Rockets liked Lin, but had Kyle Lowry and Dragic ahead of him and needed to open a spot so they could add Samuel Dalembert to the roster. So they waived Lin, a decision general manager Daryl Morey would later write on Twitter that he regretted during Lin's sensational February stretch that made him the biggest story in the NBA. The undrafted guard from Harvard, the NBA's first American-born player of Chinese or Taiwanese decent, would fit nicely with the Rockets, who remain popular in Asia even after former center Yao Ming's retirement.

Wimbledon semis: Djokovic-Federer, Murray-Tsonga

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—After curling in a 102 mph ace to grab a two-set lead a mere 56 minutes into his Wimbledon quarterfinal Wednesday, Roger Federer casually pulled an extra tennis ball from his pocket and strolled to sit in his changeover chair for a sip to drink.

No fist pump. No yell of excitement. No energized jog to the sideline.

There still was work to be done; nothing to be taken for granted. Motivated by the bitter memory of quarterfinal losses at the All England Club the past two years, including a wasted two-set edge in 2011, six-time Wimbledon champion Federer bullied 26th-seeded Mikhail Youzhny of Russia 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 to reach his record 32nd career Grand Slam semifinal.

"Feels great being back in the semis. ... Haven't been here in the last couple years," the third-seeded Federer said. "So this is nice, to be back to a place where I've been so many times before."

He's two wins away from a seventh Wimbledon championship, which would equal a mark set by William Renshaw in the 1880s—back when the defending champion received a bye directly into the final—and tied by Pete Sampras in 2000.

Nothing worked for Youzhny, including a kidding plea for help from eight-time major champion Andre Agassi, who was seated next to his wife, Steffi Graf, in the front row of the Royal Box, near Prince William and his wife, Kate.

"I know I'm playing really well," Federer said. "I am aware things are going to get complicated in the next match."

Sure are.

That's because he'll face a familiar foe Friday: No. 1 Novak Djokovic, the defending champion, who didn't have too much trouble while beating No. 31 Florian Mayer of Germany 6-4, 6-1, 6-4 in the quarterfinals.

This will be the sixth semifinal in the past eight Grand Slam tournaments, and 27th meeting overall, for Federer and Djokovic, and their first at Wimbledon.

AP

Roger Federer of Switzerland plays a shot to Mikhail Youzhny of Russia during a quarterfinals match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, England, Wednesday July 4, 2012.

Federer leads 14-12, but Djokovic won six of their last seven matches, including at the French Open a month ago.

"There's no secrets with those guys. They know how to play each other," said Federer's coach, Paul Annacone. "So it's really going to be who plays the bigger points better."

The other men's semifinal will be No. 4 Andy Murray of Britain against No. 5 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France.

Neither has won a Grand Slam title or been to a Wimbledon final.

Cue "Murray Mania," as it's known around these parts. He is trying to become the first British man to earn the trophy at the All England Club since Fred Perry in 1936; the last to even make it to the title match was Bunny Austin in 1938.

"If you think too much about it, and you read the newspapers and you watch the stuff on TV that's said about you, I think it would become far too much," Murray said. "But if you kind of shield yourself from it all and kind of just get into your own little bubble, only listen to the people that are around you, then it's something you can deal with."

He was one point from facing a two-set deficit before coming back to eliminate No. 7 David Ferrer of Spain 6-7 (5), 7-6 (6), 6-4, 7-6 (4) to get to the semifinals for the fourth year in a row. Murray lost at that stage to Andy Roddick in 2009, then to Rafael Nadal in 2010 and 2011—and No. 2 Nadal's stunning exit in the second round last week ratcheted up expectations this would be Murray's year.

"Subconsciously, I'm probably extremely stressed out right now," Murray said, "but I try not to feel it."

A basketball fan, he likened his situation to that of LeBron James, who recently won his first NBA championship with the Miami Heat after twice losing in the finals.

"I've been close a lot of times and not quite made it. Just have to keep putting myself in the position, and hopefully it will click," said Murray, the runner-up at the U.S. Open in 2008, and the Australian Open in 2010 and 2011. "There's a lot of people that said he would never win. ... Sometimes it takes guys a bit longer than others."

Tsonga, a finalist at the 2008 Australian Open, got to his second consecutive Wimbledon semifinal by defeating Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany 7-6 (5), 4-6, 7-6 (3), 6-2.

He's 1-5 against Murray, including a loss at Wimbledon two years ago.

In the women's semifinals Thursday, 13-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams plays No. 2-seeded Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, and No. 3 Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland faces No. 8 Angelique Kerber of Germany. Williams is a four-time Wimbledon winner; none of the other three women has reached the final. The 30-year-old American is trying to become the first woman at least that age to win any major title since Martina Navratilova at Wimbledon in 1990.

Federer, who turns 31 on Aug. 8, has gone 2 1/2 years without adding to his record total of 16 Grand Slam titles. And he hasn't won Wimbledon since 2009, losing to Tomas Berdych in the quarterfinals two years ago, then Tsonga in the quarterfinals last year after taking the first two sets.

If he wins Sunday's final to end his major trophy drought, the Swiss star would overtake Djokovic in the rankings and tie Sampras' record of 186 weeks at No. 1.

"He definitely wants to prove himself—and to everybody else—that he can win it once again," Djokovic said. "We both have to play at our best in order to get a win."

The Serb is 43-2 with five titles at the last seven majors, with one loss to Federer and one to Nadal, both at the French Open.

"He showed why he's the best player right now in the world. He left me no chance in the second set," Mayer said. "Roger also has to play on a really high level to have a chance to beat Novak."

Undisturbed by whipping wind or passing rain, Federer certainly looked good against Youzhny, who's seen this act before: Federer has won all 14 of their matchups.

In the fourth round, Federer needed a medical timeout to get treatment for an aching back. Didn't seem to be a problem at all Wednesday, when he won 49 of 66 service points.

"However it feels, if he plays like this, I'll take that any day of the week," said Annacone, who also coached Sampras.

By the end of the second set, two-time U.S. Open semifinalist Youzhny was screaming at himself in Russian or throwing his arms aloft in mock celebration after winning the occasional point.

After Federer flicked one particularly impressive defensive backhand and got to break point in the third set's opening game, Youzhny turned with his palms up to seek suggestions from Agassi, who smiled back. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge applauded. Youzhny, apparently pleased to play the role of court jester, promptly double-faulted.

When a reporter made a tongue-in-cheek remark about in-match coaching being against the rules, Youzhny grinned and said: "If he helped me, I'm ready to pay a fine."

Djokovic, at 25 the youngest quarterfinalist, seems to know exactly what to do against Federer, the oldest.

Into his ninth consecutive major semifinal, a streak that ranks fourth behind Federer's record 23, Djokovic never had won a grass-court title until a year ago at Wimbledon.

That success, and his tremendous two-year run, fuel Djokovic's confidence going into Friday's matchup.

"We never played on grass," Djokovic noted, "so I think it's going to be interesting for both of us to see what happens."

For the rest of us, too.

Arbitrator rules for Brees in franchise tag matter

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Drew Brees gained additional leverage in his protracted contract talks with the New Orleans Saints on Tuesday when an arbitrator in Philadelphia ruled in Brees' favor in a dispute over how much the Saints would have to pay the star quarterback if they applied the franchise tag to him again in 2013.

The Saints have already used the tag on Brees for 2012, meaning he can't negotiate with another team and could be forced to settle for a one-year, $16.3 million deal if he cannot reach a new long-term deal by a July 16 deadline specified in the league's collective bargaining agreement.

System arbitrator Stephen Burbank's ruling Tuesday said if New Orleans tries to tag Brees a second year in a row, he would be entitled to a 44 percent raise to about $23.5 million because it would be his third-career franchise tag. The NFL had argued Brees would be due a 20 percent raise because it would have been only his second franchise tag with one team.

Burbank, however, ruled that while the NFL's CBA has some ambiguity on the matter, it is clear that the overarching purpose of the language regarding multiple franchise tags is meant to protect players from being denied their rights to free agency for an undue length of their careers.

"The arbitrator properly rejected the NFL's strained interpretation of the CBA language, which ignored the fact that a franchise player designation is a narrow exception to the overall free agency structure," the NFL Players Association said in a written statement after Burbank's ruling. "This ruling will help all franchise players in the future. We are very happy that Drew Brees has clarification on this matter, and we hope that it facilitates a successful negotiation for Drew and the Saints."

Brees has so far skipped the Saints' offseason practices while holding out for a new long-term contract with New Orleans.

New Orleans designated Brees, 33, its franchise player in March after the club was unable to reach a new long-term extension with the record-setting quarterback before his previous six-year, $60 million contract expired.

During the past six seasons, Brees has not only led the Saints to their only Super Bowl title, but has completed more passes (2,488) for more yards (28,394) and more touchdowns (201) than any other quarterback in the NFL. His 67.8 percent completion rate spanning the past six seasons also tops the league.

In 2011, Brees set NFL single-season records with 468 completions, 5,476 yards passing and a completion percentage of 71.2. His prolific passing numbers helped the Saints set a new NFL high for total offensive yards in a season with 7,474.

He led the Saints to a 13-3 regular season record and second NFC South Division title in three seasons. New Orleans defeated Detroit in the first round of the playoffs before falling in the final seconds of their second-round game at San Francisco.

This offseason marks the first time Brees has had the opportunity to negotiate a major, long-term deal with the leverage provided by a string of injury-free seasons highlighted by a slew of individual and team statistical records, in addition to a championship.

He commanded only second-round money when he was drafted by San Diego, and the Chargers placed the one-year franchise tag on him when that deal ran out in 2005. The right-handed Brees then had an injury the following season that required major surgery to his throwing shoulder, and which left him with few major offers during the 2006 offseason.

He wound up signing the six-year deal in New Orleans that left him playing for well below what the top quarterbacks in the league earned during the past few seasons.

Youkilis gets winning hit in 10th for White Sox

CHICAGO (AP)— Chicago's Kevin Youkilis hit a game-ending RBI single in the bottom of the 10th inning to give the White Sox a 5-4 win over the Texas Rangers on Wednesday in a clash of American League divisional leaders.

In the 10th inning, Alejandro De Aza, who fouled a ball off his right knee during the at-bat, led off the inning with a walk against Rangers reliever Mike Adams (1-3) then stole second. On the ninth pitch, Youkilis ended the game with an RBI single to score De Aza and prompting the crowd to shout "Youuuuk!" for the player acquired in a trade from the Red Sox on June 24.

The Rangers had won their previous seven series.

Addison Reed (2-1) pitched a scoreless 10th for the White Sox to take the win.

AP

Chicago White Sox's Kevin Youkilis connects on a game-winning RBI-single, scoring Alejandro De Aza, during the 10th inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers, Wednesday, July 4, 2012, in Chicago.

Yankees 4, Rays 3

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Robinson Cano hit a two-run single during a three-run eighth as New York downed Tampa Bay.

Cano has driven in at least one run in a career-best eight consecutive games, helping the AL East leaders stop a nine-game road losing streak against the Rays.

Alex Rodriguez cut the Yankees' deficit to 3-2 when he drew a one-out bases-loaded walk, the fourth freebie issued by Kyle Farnsworth (0-1) in the eighth. Jake McGee replaced Farnsworth and allowed Cano's single that put New York up 4-3.

Indians 12, Angels 3

In Cleveland, Derek Lowe won for the first time in more than a month as Cleveland beat the Los Angeles Angels.

Lowe (8-6) gave up three runs and 11 hits in six innings for his first win in six starts since June 1. The 39-year-old right-hander was 0-3 with a 7.71 ERA in five outings between victories.

Michael Brantley hit a three-run homer in the first inning off Ervin Santana (4-9) and Casey Kotchman had a three-run shot in a six-run second as Cleveland took a 9-1 lead.

Johnny Damon had a season-high three of Cleveland's 14 hits. The Indians totaled 21 runs in two wins after being shut out 3-0 in the series opener.

Athletics 3, Red Sox 2

In Oakland, Jemile Weeks hit a go-ahead RBI single in the seventh inning following Coco Crisp's leadoff triple as Oakland s completed a three-game sweep of Boston.

Red Sox slugger David Ortiz hit his 400th career home run and scored on Adrian Gonzalez's sixth-inning single.

Grant Balfour (2-2) went 1 2-3 innings for the win as the A's (41-42) moved within one game of .500 for the first time since they were 22-23 on May 23. Lone A's All-Star Ryan Cook finished with a 1-2-3 ninth for his eighth save in 11 chances.

Aaron Cook (2-2), coming off a career-best two-hit shutout in a 5-0 win at Seattle on Friday in which he didn't walk a batter for the second straight outing, was tagged for nine hits and three runs in six-plus innings.

Orioles 4, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Chris Tillman gave up just two hits in 8 1-3 innings in first start of 2012 as Adam Jones hit his 20th home run of the season for Baltimore.

Jones' homer leading off the second inning came on a 2-0 pitch from Seattle starter Hector Noesi (2-11) and landed well back in the upper level seats. That was all Tillman needed, as the one-time Seattle prospect shut down his former organization after getting called up from the minors.

Tillman (1-0) took a one-hitter into the ninth but Michael Saunders reached on an error and John Jaso's one-out double on Tillman's 125th pitch ended his day.

Blue Jays 4, Royals 1

In Toronto, Carlos Villanueva pitched six shutout innings to steer Toronto past Kansas City.

Starting for the second time this season after making 22 relief appearances, Villanueva (3-0) walked none and matched a season-high with seven strikeouts.

Yunel Escobar drove in two runs for the Blue Jays, with every starter getting at least one hit. Toronto is 6-1 against Kansas City this season.

Luis Mendoza (3-5) allowed nine hits in six innings for the Royals, who have lost five of six.

Tigers 5, Twins 1

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera homered twice to help Detroit defeat Minnesota.

In a game delayed two hours and 26 minutes by rain, Cabrera went 3-for-3, drove in three runs and scored three. He was intentionally walked in his other plate appearance as the Tigers ended Minnesota's five-game winning streak.

Detroit starter Justin Verlander (9-5) pitched his fifth complete game, making his case for starting in the All-Star game, striking out seven and walking only one.

Twins starter Brian Duensing (1-5) pitched well into the fifth, but left the game with a bruised left ankle after being hit by a grounder.

Nationals 9, Giants 4

In Washington, Ryan Zimmerman's line drive to right-center field kept going—and going and going—until it landed in the first row, highlighting another big Fourth of July for the resurgent third baseman as the National League East-leading Washington Nationals beat the San Francisco Giants.

Zimmerman missed another home run by inches—he had to settle for an RBI double—on a humid day when the ball carried well at Nationals Park. He is 10 for 20 with four homers and 13 RBIs in six Independence Day games.

Dodgers 4, Reds 1

In Los Angeles, Aaron Harang pitched seven strong innings against his former team, leading Los Angeles past Cincinnati.

Harang (6-5) allowed one run, struck out five and walked just one in his second career start against the team he pitched for from 2003-10. His previous appearance against the Reds came in 2002 when he played with Oakland.

The Dodgers took two out of three against the Reds to snap their skid of four straight series losses.

Phillies 9, Mets 2

In New York, Cliff Lee finally posted his first win of the season as Philadelphia hit three late homers, breaking past New York and stopping a six-game losing streak.

Chase Utley and Carlos Ruiz hit consecutive home runs in the seventh inning as the Phillies rallied from a 2-0 deficit. Ty Wigginton's two-run homer in the ninth capped the surge.

Lee (1-5) had gone a puzzling 13 starts this year without a victory, a big reason the five-time NL East champions have fallen far behind. The lefty ace hadn't been awful, nor had he been consistently good.

Pirates 6, Astros 4

In Pittsburgh, Mike McKenry and Pedro Alvarez drove in two runs each as Pittsburgh looked pretty comfortable during their first day in first place, beating Houston.

Kevin Correia (5-6) won his third straight decision as the streaking Pirates moved nine games above .500 (45-36) for the first time since Barry Bonds was swinging for the fences at Three Rivers Stadium 20 years ago. Joel Hanrahan pitched the ninth for his 21st save. Garrett Jones added two hits for Pittsburgh, which has won seven of eight.

J.D. Martinez hit his 10th homer for the Astros, while Scott Moore and Brian Bogusevic each had two hits, though it couldn't stop Houston from dropping its seventh straight.

Marlins 7, Brewers 6, 10 innings

In Milwaukee, Hanley Ramirez hit an RBI single off reliever Manny Parra in the 10th inning as Florida went on to beat Milwaukee.

Ramirez's big hit came after the Marlins rallied from a one-run deficit in the ninth, when Gaby Sanchez hit a solo home run off Brewers closer John Axford to tie the game at 6.

After the Brewers left a pair of runners on base on the bottom of the ninth, Parra got two quick outs to start the 10th. But he gave up a double to Donovan Solano, then Ramirez singled up the middle to give the Marlins the lead.

Parra (0-3) took the loss, and Wade LeBlanc earned the win (1-0).

Cardinals 4, Rockies 1

In St. Louis, Adam Wainwright pitched six strong innings to guide St. Louis past Colorado.

Wainwright (7-8) gave up one run and struck out seven. He fanned seven of the first 13 hitters and threw a first-pitch strike to nine of the first 10 batters.

Matt Holliday had three hits for the Cardinals, who scored runs in the first and second off Colorado spot starter Jeremy Guthrie (3-8), who gave up two runs in six innings.

Cubs 5, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Bryan LaHair, Jeff Baker and Anthony Rizzo hit home runs as Chicago downed Atlanta.

Rizzo's homer off Anthony Varvaro in the eighth was his second of the series and third overall since his recall from the minors on June 26.

Cubs starter Paul Maholm (6-6) gave up one run in six innings.

Atlanta's Randall Delgado (4-9) allowed three runs in six-plus innings. He has lost four straight decisions.

Padres 8, Diamondbacks 6

In Phoenix, Yasmani Grandal hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning that San Diego to its first-ever three-game sweep at Arizona.

Grandal has now homered in four of his six career hits. He hit David Hernandez's (1-2) pitch just over the right field fence, with the ball bouncing off the fielder's glove.

San Diego's Luke Gregerson (2-0) struck out the only two batters he faced in the seventh to get the victory.

Astros ship Carlos Lee to Marlins for prospects

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Ozzie Guillen knows Carlos Lee from their time together with the Chicago White Sox. Now Guillen hopes Lee can provide his typical brand of slugging on the field for the Miami Marlins, and give them some leadership off of it.

The Marlins acquired Lee from the Houston Astros in a trade on Wednesday, sending a pair of minor leaguers to Houston.

"It's a huge move, I think, the front office, showing people how much we want to win," Guillen said. "They show how much we care about winning this year, they showed the players that they're willing to do anything to help this ballclub."

The Astros acquired third baseman Matt Dominguez and left-handed pitcher Rob Rasmussen in the deal. Marlins general manager Michael Hill said the club also received cash considerations from Houston in the deal.

"We felt like it was a good time to infuse a veteran, professional, experienced bat into the lineup," Hill said.

The 36-year-old Lee spent five-plus seasons with the Astros and is hitting .287 with five homers and 29 RBI this year.

Houston manager Brad Mills removed Lee in the seventh inning of a 6-4 loss to the Pittsburgh Pirates on Wednesday. Lee's locker was already empty by the time the clubhouse opened after the game.

The right-hander gives the Marlins a veteran hitter as they try to get back into the race in the NL East. First base has been a problem for Miami this season, where regular Gaby Sanchez came into Wednesday's game hitting .194 with two homers and 16 RBIs.

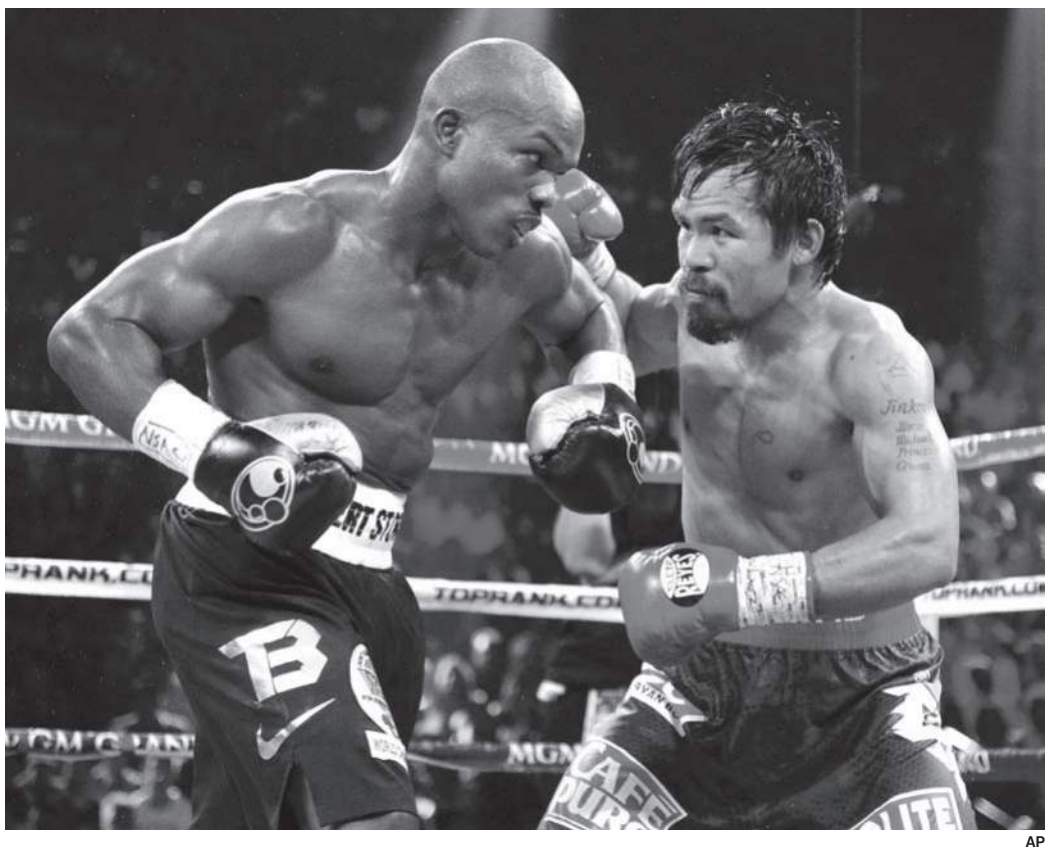
Sanchez hit his third homer in Wednesday's 7-6, 10-inning victory over the Milwaukee Brewers, but it wasn't enough. Hill said Sanchez had been optioned to Triple-A New Orleans.

"Unfortunately, first base has not been a productive position for us, and we're looking to upgrade our offensive production at that position," Hill said.

Guillen provided a more harsh assessment of Sanchez's play.

"It's not easy, but that's our job," Guillen said. "I don't think he should be blaming anybody. He should blame himself. We gave Gaby a lot of opportunities. The reason they made this move (is) obvious. We've not had much production from him, and in Carlos, we hope we've got more production. People don't make moves just to make moves."

Nev. AG: Nothing criminal in Pacquiao-Bradley bout



AP

In this June 9, 2012, photo, Manny Pacquiao, right, and Timothy Bradley face off during their WBO welterweight title fight in Las Vegas.

KEN RITTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOXING

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Nevada's state attorney general found nothing illegal or criminal in Manny Pacquiao's controversial split-decision loss to Timothy Bradley in a welterweight title fight last month in Las Vegas, according to a letter made public on Tuesday.

Interviews with the referee of the June 9 fight, two Nevada Gaming Control Board officials and state Athletic Commission Director Keith Kizer turned up no evidence of wrongdoing, state Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto said in the letter to Top Rank chief executive Bob Arum.

Arum manages both fighters. He sought an inquiry on June 11, telling Masto he hoped it would "show the world that there were no improprieties."

Arum didn't immediately respond on Tuesday to requests for comment.

"Displeasure with the subjective decisions of sporting officials is not a sufficient basis for this office to initiate a criminal investigation," Masto's letter said. "There do not appear to be any facts or evidence to indicate that a criminal violation occurred."

Masto aide Jennifer Lopez issued a statement calling the matter closed.

Bradley won 115-113 on two scorecards, while losing by the same margin on the third.

The decision was booed by the ringside crowd at the MGM Grand arena, drew a video review by the World Boxing Organization, and resulted in a call by Pacquiao for a rematch.

A five-judge panel assembled by the WBO championship committee unanimously favored the Filipino fighter in a review.

The WBO can't overturn the result of the fight.

MIEKO

From Page 32

Lewie Tenorio. I know I will face another tough race in Kaike, but I will keep pushing myself to make it to the finish line, as I want to represent the CNMI well and make my family, friends, and supporters.They are the ones who keep me going," Carey said.

Last year, the Saipan pro almost quit the 3-km swim, 145-km bike, and 42.195-km run due to dehydration, but decided to continue racing, as her nieces were waiting for her and wanted to run with her to the finish line. Carey also knew her Saipan friends were waiting for good news from Kaike last year and that encouraged her to complete the grueling race.

Carey went on to finish the race in 9:50:49, which is faster than her 2010 time of 9:56:38. She was ranked second overall in the women's division and 36th overall out of more than 800 finishers. Carey was in first place until the 15-km mark of the run leg when eventual winner Sha Li Dasong of China grabbed the lead.

"I read *Saipan Tribune*'s story on me during last year's Kaike and it reminded me how hard it was to race in Kaike. You have to be ready both physically and mentally. You never know what will going to happen. Last year's experience made me stronger and more focus on racing not against others, but against myself. I am excited to race and make it to the finish line again," Carey said.

Besides completing the Kaike race, Carey also hopes to encourage triathletes to join the XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman Triathlon next year.

"I hope to bring more triathletes to next year's XTERRA and Tagaman," said Carey, who recently received financial assistance from Taga, Inc. for her Kaike trip.

"I thanked Taga, Inc. for always helping me in my race in Kaike. Thank you also to PDI, especially Hiroko for making sure I'll get a chance to compete in Kaike," added Carey, who also recognized the help of IT&E, Bike Pro, and Mariana Resort & Spa.

TSL SPORTS COMPLEX
Activity Schedule for Friday, July 6, 2012
2012 Summer Futsal League
6:30 PM U18 Boys' Division Astig vs. Mean Machine
7:30 PM Women's Division IT&E vs. Wild Bill's
SAIPAN SOCCER SCHOOL

CNMI

From Page 32

walks enabled a pair of RBI base smashes by Frankie Camacho and A.J. Lizama. The duo also weaseled around to score off some pitches in the dirt before Indonesia could escape.

The CNMI then took a 14-1 lead in the fourth inning off three hits with the help of three more walks by a wild opposing pitching staff.

Jun Rabauliman cracked a hit and scored off an error as his teammates moved him around and load the bases, which were soon cleared by a booming double by A.J. Lizama. Steven Cabrera also bagged an RBI in the mix and drove in Rabauliman for the final run in the fifth inning.

Third batter A.J. Lizama was a one-man wrecking crew, finishing 4-for-4 with five RBIs, two runs, and three stolen bases.

CNMI starting pitcher Frankie Lieto gave up one unearned run, a hit, and a walk through three innings and closer Davin Ada struck out five to slam the door.

Aside from the CNMI and Indonesia, also competing in the Senior League regionals are China (0-2), Guam (0-1), New Zealand, the Philippines (1-0), and Thailand (0-1).New Zealand (1-0) just finished rustling Indonesia, 17-2, in Wednesday's opener and took on China (0-2) yesterday afternoon. The Philippines (1-0) outlasted Guam (1-1), 7-6, in Thursday's opening pairing.

The CNMI Senior All-Stars face China today at 9am, while its Big League counterparts collide with Guam (0-1) at 5:15pm. Last Wednesday, the Philippines (1-0) outlasted the host team, 4-1.

The CNMI Big League All-Stars, for its part, closed the day against the Philippines yesterday; results will be released tomorrow.

In Vietnam, the CNMI Junior All-Stars finished second place behind Taipei after toppling Indonesia, 8-2, on Wednesday. They faced off with third-ranked Philippines in yesterday night's 6pm (Vietnam time) semifinal; results will be released once received. Taipei took on Indonesia in Thursday's opener.

The Junior League championship takes place tonight at 5pm preceded by the consolation match.

The Junior League ASPAC is being held in Nha Trang City, Vietnam. Hong Kong Indonesia and the host team make up the rest of the field.

The CNMI Major League All Stars (1-1), meanwhile, clashed with Korea (2-0) yesterday at Wen Shiao Field in Taichung, Taipei and results of that match is expected to be released tomorrow as well.

Australia (2-0), Thailand (1-2), and Indonesia (0-3) are included with the CNMI Major League All-Stars in Pool B, while Pool A features host team Taipei (3-0), Hong Kong (2-0), the Philippines (1-2), Guam (0-2), and New Zealand (0-2).

The CNMI Major League All-Stars finish up its pool play round today against Indonesia at 2pm.

The Top 2 teams of each pool advance to tomorrow's semifinals and the champion will be crowned on Sunday.

DLX

From Page 32

suming its rained-out match over Team Pogi. The game was first played last Saturday with Team Pogi ahead, 47-46, at the 3:01 mark of the third period.

DLX outgunned Team Pogi at the resumption of the match to grab the lead at the end of the third, 52-49. However, Team Pogi outgunned DLX in the first six minutes of the fourth canto, 11-2, and the former then hit back-to-back treys to taste its biggest lead, 66-55, going into the final three minutes of the game.

Brian Chan paced Team Pogi with his 21 points, while Jeff Bahillo chipped in 20.

Ron Hernandez led DLX/Irish Spring with his 13 markers and also scored in double figured (10) in their second game of the night against 8 Division.

Hernandez's four other teammates also tallied twin digits in their demolition of 8 Division. Rick Brien led all scorers with his 17 points, 9 of them came from downtown, Bernard Samson added 14, Art Trajano nailed 11, and J.R. Montano posted 10.

Brien drained two straight triples in the closing minutes of the opening canto to lift DLX to an early double-digit lead, 23-10. DLX then held 8 Division to another 10-point out in the second canto to open a 49-20 halftime lead.

First Game

Brabu Gualo Rai 69 – Samson 14, Mallari 12, Dayrit 12, Manalon 8, Jose 8, Mamaril 4, Galzone 4.

Sinigang 60 – Moran 19, Factor 19, Ano 7, Aguilar 6, Gotengco 3, Jeri. Habijan 3, Macahito 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-15, 34-26, 54-42, 69-60.

Second Game (Make-up)

Team Pogi 71—Chan 21, Ja. Bahillo 20, Je. Bahillo 12, Lansang 11, Sula 5.

DLX/Irish Spring 63 – Hernandez 13, Trajano 12, J. Montano 10, Fernandez 10, B. Bernardo 8, Garcia 2, Leong 2, Samson 2, Hilario 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-20, 34-34, 49-52, 71-63.

Third Game

DLX/Irish Spring 97 – Brien 17, Samson 14, Trajano 11, Hernandez 10, J. Montano 10, Cordero 7, Fernandez 7, Hilario 5, Leong 4, Domingo 3.

8 Division 58 – Jacob 19, Rivera 16, Detera 6, Allano 5, Alejandro 4, Hernandez 2, Miguel 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-10, 49-20, 74-32, 97-58.

11 EVENTS

From Page 32

Northern Marianas Swimming Federation is sanctioning the small meet, so Saipan Swim Club members can also join the weekend competition and times will be considered for inclusion in the CNMI swim record books.

"We have already sent an invitation and meet information to SSC coach Mike Villagomez," said meet director and Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura.

The July 14 meet will be the first official competition to be conducted at the Marpi pool after officials and volunteers of both clubs attended a FINA-sponsored clinic in April.

Volunteers/parents, who participated in the clinic, will help run the weekend meet. The list includes starter Ryota Ordonez, clerk of course Yuko Kimura, judges Daisuke Yanai and Bell Tan, turn judges Patty Staal and Ayumi Yanai, marshall Yoriko Sugie, timers Kaori Toda, Katherine Torres, and Miki Ordones, and head referee Hiro Kimura. NMSF president Josh Hirsh will also be on hand as representative of the local sanctioning body of the sport.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	49	32	.605	_
Baltimore	44	37	.543	5
Tampa Bay	43	39	.524	6 1/2
Boston	42	40	.512	7 1/2
Toronto	42	40	.512	7 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	44	37	.543	_
Cleveland	42	39	.519	2
Detroit	40	42	.488	4 1/2
Kansas City	36	44	.450	7 1/2
Minnesota	35	46	.432	9

West Division

Texas	50	32	.610	_
Los Angeles	45	37	.549	5
Oakland	41	42	.494	9 1/2
Seattle	35	49	.417	16

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	47	32	.595	_
New York	44	38	.537	4 1/2
Atlanta	42	39	.519	6
Miami	39	42	.481	9
Philadelphia	37	46	.446	12

Central Division

Pittsburgh	45	36	.556	_
Cincinnati	44	37	.543	1
St. Louis	43	39	.524	2 1/2
Milwaukee	38	43	.469	7
Houston	32	50	.390	13 1/2
Chicago	31	50	.383	14

West Division

Los Angeles	46	37	.554	_
San Francisco	45	37	.549	1/2
Arizona	39	42	.481	6
San Diego	33	50	.398	13
Colorado	31	50	.383	14

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NMC Foundation Golf tourney

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Golfers head to the west course of LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort at the beginning of the Northern Marianas College Foundation's 10th Annual Open golf tournament held last Saturday, June 30.

Jeff Taylor tracks his ball after teeing off in hole No. 3 sponsored by United Airlines in the 10th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament at LaoLao bay Golf & Resort.

Ladies Flight golfers stop for a quick photo in hole No. 7 in NMC Foundation's 10th Annual Golf Tournament at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

Golfers pose for a group photo in hole No. 17 before teeing off to try to make a hole-in-one to win a 2012 Hyundai Elantra courtesy of Triple J Motors.

B Flight first place winner Jeung Yoon Kim (second from right) accepts her prize certificate from NMC Foundation representatives after the Foundation's 10th Annual Open golf tournament at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

First place winner of the Seniors Flight of the recent 10th Annual NMC Foundation golf tournament, Edward Manibusan (right), accepts a roundtrip ticket courtesy of United Airlines as a prize from foundation president Ivan Quichocho after the event at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

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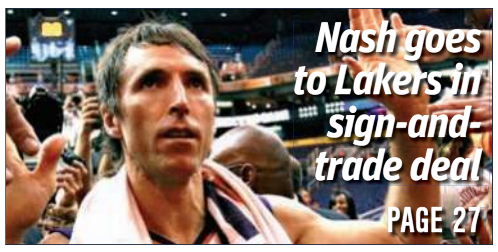

Saipan Tribune
Sports

CNMI Seniors dominate Indonesia, 15-1

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

HAGATNA, Guam—The CNMI Senior All-Stars pelted five Indonesian (0-2) pitchers for a solid 15-1 victory in Day 2 of the 2012 Senior Asia Pacific Regional Tournament yesterday at the Paseo Stadium.

The CNMI took an early 2-0 lead in the first inning off an RBI single by Ray Saralu and an RBI walk with the bases loaded.

Leadoff-hit batsman Lancaster Secharmidal came in to score and A.J. Lizama hit his way on before completing a lap around the path.

The CNMI added two runs in the second inning off some errors and an RBI base knock by Lizama. Indonesia mustered its lone run in the bottom frame off a fielder's choice.

The CNMI shrugged it off and stamped five runs on the board in the top of the third inning.

Jeffrey Lizama drove in Cedric Ada and a couple of costly

See CNMI on Page 30

CNMI Senior All-Stars shortstop A.J. Lizama throws over to first base for a force out against Indonesia in their 2012 Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament game yesterday at the Paseo Stadium in Hagatna, Guam.
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Mieko competes in Kaike for fifth time

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan's Mieko Carey is leaving for Japan next week to represent the CNMI in the Kaike Triathlon Championships for the fifth time.

"It's another long race and big challenge for me," said Carey, who will be leaving Saipan on July 13 for the July 15 competition that will take place in Yonago, Tottori.

The Kaike race is Carey's second in less than a month, as she also joined the Lixil Ironman 70.3 Centrair in Tokoname, Japan on June 24. The 34-year-old triathlete topped the women's 30 to 34 age group of the race, completed the 1.9-kilometer (1.2-mile) swim, 90-km bike, and 13-km run in 5:01:40.

"My body is still recovering after the tough race in Half Ironman. I am training and riding 100 miles with

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan pro Mieko Carey, left, receives a check donation from Taga, Inc. president Wolf Mojica for her participation in the Kaike triathlon in Japan next Sunday.

DLX/Irish Spring, Brabu enter playoffs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

DLX/Irish Spring and Brabu notched playoff berths in the 2012 DLX/DL JOS Inter-Color Basketball League after recording separate wins last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

DLX/Irish Spring, which earlier dropped a make-up game against Bracket A top finisher Team Pogi (6-1), 63-71, got its needed win over 8 Division on the same night, cruising to a 97-58 victory in the last game. DLX Irish Spring now has a 4-2 record to tie Mawati for second to third place in the team standings. Mawati is likely to finish second, as it led DLX by 20 points in their rained-out match last month. Marianas Water (4-3) completes the playoff cast in Bracket A. AD-31 (3-4), Docomo (3-4), 8 Division (1-5), and LD Prime (1-5) are eliminated.

In Bracket B, Brabu Gualo Rai joins KFC/Taco Bell (6-1), the Fastbreakers (6-1), Banahaw (3-3) to the next round, following a 69-60 triumph against Sinigang in the first game of a triple-header.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
DLX/Irish Spring's Richard Leong eludes the defense of Team Pogi's Jason Bahillo, left, for an uncontested layup during the third quarter of their game in the DLX/DL JOS caging last Wednesday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Brabu finished the round-robin elimination with a 4-3 record, while Sinigang fell to a 2-4 mark, joining San Roque (2-5), R-Lyn's (2-3), and Wushin (0-5) in the showers.

Brabu secured the fourth playoff berth after thwarting Sinigang's late rally. Brabu threatened to pull away midway in the fourth, 62-46, but Sinigang launched a 10-0 run to move within 6 points, 56-62, with still three minutes left on the clock.

Sinigang had a chance to cut the deficit further, as Brabu failed to buy a basket, however the former either turned the ball over or missed its targets in its next four possessions.

After their botched offensive sets, Sinigang committed defensive lapses, leaving Nelson Samson and Jun Galzote in the paint for back-to-back easy baskets. Prince Factor answered with his own two straight baskets, but Sinigang ran out of time in the end, while J.P. Jose sealed the win at the foul line, going 2-for-4.

Ten minutes after Brabu saved a playoff seat, DLX/Irish Spring tried to follow suit, re-

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11 events scheduled for Tsunami Saipan meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center-hosted meet next Saturday will be a short one as only 11 events are scheduled at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

The host club will be holding (in order) the 100m butterfly, 100m backstroke, 100m breaststroke, 50m freestyle, and 50m breaststroke races for the first part of the program, which will conclude with an exhibition race for the 25m backstroke event. Only the experienced swimmers will be allowed to compete in the 25m backstroke race.

For the second part of the meet, swimmers will race in the 100m freestyle, 200m individual medley, 50m backstroke, 50m butterfly, and another exhibition swim—the 25m butterfly.

Races will start at 3:30pm and warm-ups will begin at 2:30pm.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Swimmers get ready for the 100m freestyle race during a local meet in April this year at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.